Atlanta/GA

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AUGUST 23/2001 • WWW.SOVO.COM

News Tips
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Redistricting turns 'ugly'

Gay rep's seat in jeopardy as governor orders legislature to reconsider maps

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

ATLANTA—Gov. Roy Barnes' surprise announcement Tuesday that he will not approve new General Assembly districts passed by the state House and Senate last week could spell disaster for Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale), the state's only openly gay legislator.

In refusing to approve the new districts, required because of population shifts revealed by the 2000 Census, Barnes cited "legal concerns" primarily about two districts: the new District 52, which would have included Drenner, and the new District 41, which includes gay rights supporter Rep. Nan Orrock (D-Atlanta).

Both women are white, and both currently represent majority African-American districts. But their new districts both fall below 30 percent African-American residents.

The drops could raise concerns from the U.S. Justice Department, which must approve the new maps to make sure the black vote isn't being diluted.

"My maps are back to square one. I'm back in the hopper again," a frustrated Drenner said Tuesday, shortly after leaving a meeting at the governor's office where she was told of Barnes' concerns.

Drenner said the governor's staff presented her with two choices for redrawing her district, both of which could present serious obstacles to her re-election, so she doesn't know which she will recommend.

"I'm just still trying to fathom all of this," she said.

The General Assembly reconvened Wednesday for a second special session, which will now have to reconsider the House and Senate maps as well as addressing redistricting for seats in the U.S. Congress and other issues such as a proposed ban on video poker.

Three-member district scrapped

The Democrat-controlled state House and Senate last week gave final approval to a House map creating 145 districts instead of the current 180. Of the 145, 24 would be new "multi-member" districts represented by more than one legislator. The General Assembly also gave final approval to the new state Senate map, which does not feature multi-member districts.

The process is entirely partisan.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator, said she fears losing her seat in the General Assembly if gay voters don't recognize the 'urgency' of the race.

"These multi-member seats eat up a lot of Republican areas and strengthen the likelihood that the House can maintain Democratic control," Drenner said. "That's

➢ Continued on Page 9

Decatur approves DP benefits

Atlanta suburb first government in GA to limit benefits to same-sex couples only

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

DECATUR, Ga.—The City of Decatur this week became only the second city in Georgia, and the third local government, to approve domestic partner benefits for its employees.

With the City Commissionís Aug. 20 vote on the DP package scheduled the same night as a town hall meeting on a significant city tax increase, residents supporting the package waited almost three hours for its introduction.

Shortly after 10 p.m. Mayor Bill Floyd introduced the resolution, openly gay Council Member Kecia Cunningham seconded it, and the measure to provide benefits to only same-sex domestic partners passed unanimously in less than two minutes with very little fanfare.

"A lot of time and effort went into this resolution," Cunningham said after the vote. "It made me very proud to think Decatur is one of those cities that represents people of all diversities, and that we recognize everyone contributes to the overall quality of our community."

Both the policy passed by Decatur and the procedure leading up to it stand in stark contrast to a vote on DP benefits in nearby Fulton County a month before.

By a 5-2 vote, the Fulton County Commission on July 18 rejected a proposal to offer benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex domestic partners of county employees. Fulton County Commissioner Emma Darnell led opposition to the measure, saying it would encourage heterosexual couples to "shack" instead of getting married.

The decision to offer Decatur's benefits only to gay couples generated the only debate of the evening, when Commissioner John Ridley asked if the benefits could be extended to all domestic partners of city employees, including straight couples.

"Since the City is known for its anti-discrimination policy, why discriminate against any relationship?" Ridley said.

"I believe we should only offer this benefit to those who do not have the opportunity to take advantage of legal marriage in Georgia," answered Commissioner Jim Baskett. "If you can take advantage of the [marriage] law, then by all means do. But if you can't, we can offer some equity to that

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INSIDE

Atlanta's annual Labor Day weekend Black Pride celebration promises a full schedule of parties and workshops, plus the event's first ever Pride march.

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Mayoral hopeful Shirley Franklin, currently leading in gay endorsements, joined opponents Robb Pitts and Gloria Bromell-Tinubu at a forum sponsored by a gay business group last week.

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The Atlanta Human Relations Commission, which includes openly gay member Ken Britt, will get the results of an investigation into alleged anti-gay bias next week.

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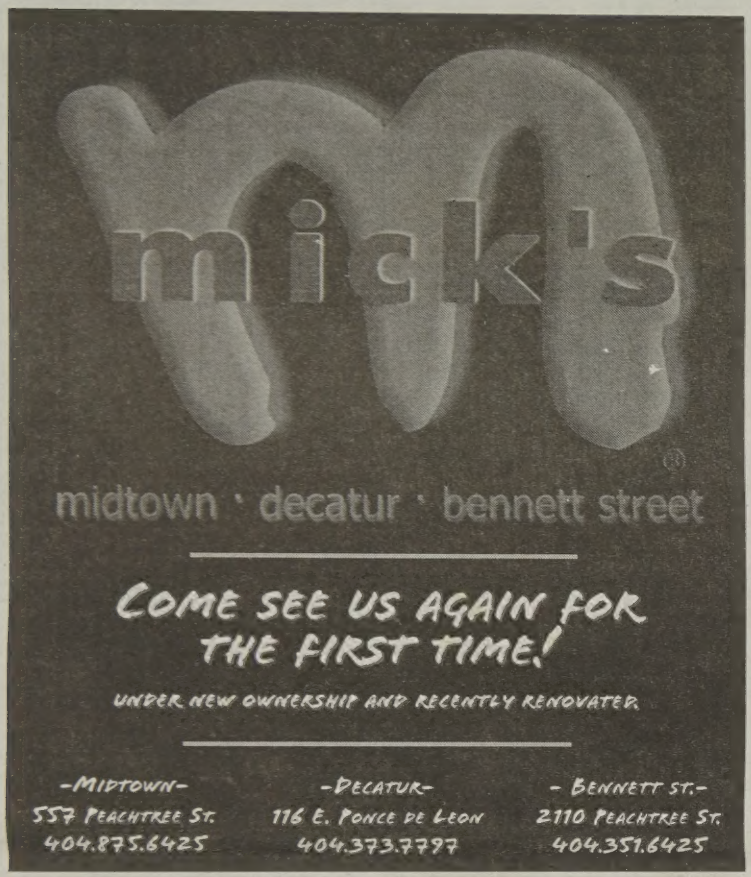

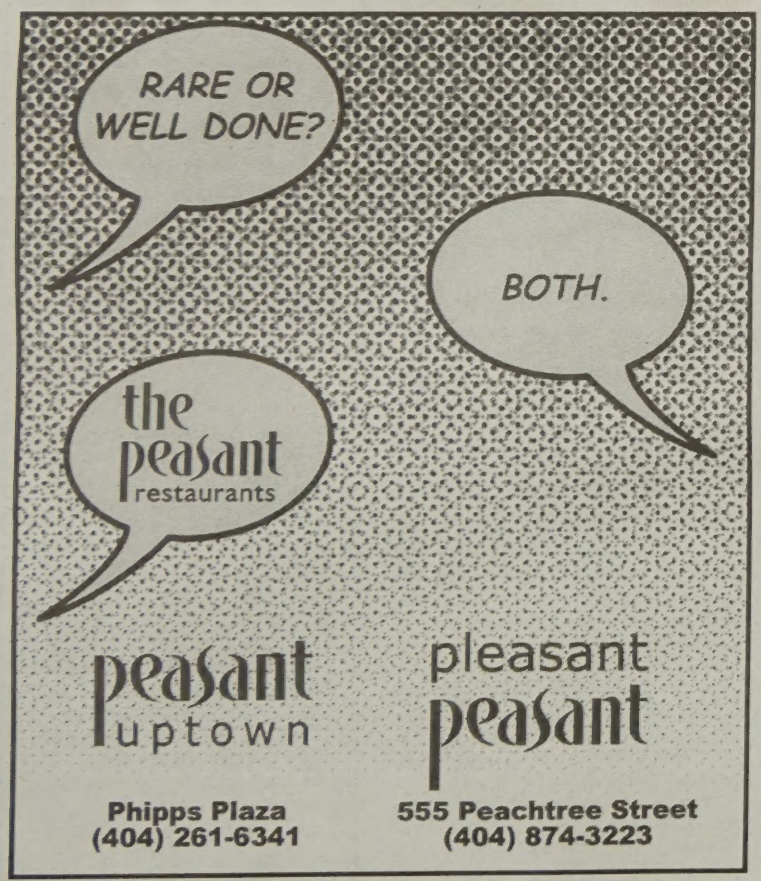

around the south

GA school system may yank classic in part over gay content

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—About 150 people attended a Glynn County school board meeting last week that centered on a proposal to ban J.D. Salinger's classic novel "The Catcher in the Rye" from the high school curriculum in response to complaints from parents. "Fourteen people signed up to speak and all of them were in opposition to any policy change," said Jim Weidhaas, a spokesperson for Glynn County schools. He declined further comment. Board member Pat Ulmer first suggested removing the book from the curriculum. "Catcher in the Rye" contains multiple instances of profanity and references to homosexuality and drinking alcohol. "If you are going to build good character in children, you have to have books that reflect good character and good moral values," Ulmer told the Associated Press. Lynn Barfield, program coordinator at Enlight Atlanta, an advocacy group for gay students and educators, called the proposed measure "totally ridiculous." "It's just a slap in the face in terms of how our education systems are dealing with the issue of homosexuality," she said. The issues could come up again at the board's Sept. 10 meeting.

Federal judge delays FL case against anti-gay adoption law

MIAMI, Fla.—A pretrial conference set for last week in the continuing battle against Florida's 24-year-old ban on adoptions by gays was rescheduled for next month, further slowing a case that could have broad implications for gay parents. But within a few weeks, a federal judge may rule on a third motion by the state to have the challenge dismissed, though the case is expected to make it to trial, said Eric Ferrero, spokesman for the ACLU's Gay & Lesbian Rights Project, which is handling the case. "This law is an active tool of state-sanctioned discrimination of all GLBT people," said Nadine Smith, executive director of gay state lobby Equality Florida. The state argues that Florida's legislature has a right to dictate legal moral structure and a disapproval of homosexuality, said Casey Walker, one of the lawyers for the state. Florida is one of a handful of states that ban or restrict adoptions by gays.

For more on this story, visit www.sovo.com.

Doug Houghton (right) reads to Oscar Williams, 9, at their home in Coconut Grove, Fla. Houghton has cared for Oscar since he was three and would like to adopt him, but the state of Florida will not approve the adoption because Houghton is gay.

Pastor preaches acceptance for black gays in TN church

NASHVILLE—Rev. Edwin C. Sanders II, founding pastor and "senior servant" at Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville, belongs to a rarely recognized group of black religious leaders nationwide who welcome and encourage gay people to take part in church life. "There are a number of folks who come who are cross-dressers and folks who are in the midst of sex changes," Sanders noted in "A Whosoever Church: Welcoming Lesbians & Gay Men into African-American Congregations," a book published this year by Westminster John Knox Press. "People know they are here but just don't pay any attention to it," he said. Sanders said a gay black man named Don had a strong impact on the Tennessee church from 1981, when Metropolitan Interdenominational opened, until his death from AIDS–related complications in 1984. The church's subsequent outreach to people with AIDS led members to explore their beliefs about homosexuality, he said.

For more on this story, visit www.sovo.com.

KY city okays symbolic vote on gay rights ordinance

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The city's Board of Aldermen expanded Louisville's gay-rights protections in a largely symbolic vote last week. Eight aldermen voted for an ordinance that bans discrimination in housing, public accommodations and employment. Three voted against it, and one abstained. The vote was symbolic because the law is already in effect. The Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled recently that a Jefferson County law—identical to the one the aldermen approved Aug. 14—applied in Louisville. In 1999, Louisville had adopted a more limited law that banned employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Gay rights supporters wanted to expand it to match the county law, but were unable to get a majority of the 12 aldermen to back it. Opponents of the measure said it would be defeated by the new merged government when it takes over in 2003.

SC town changes street name over gay concerns

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Residents on Gay Place have won their fight to change the name of their street to Moultrie Court. The city Planning Commission voted Aug. 15 to return the street to a name similar to its original one after a couple who are renovating two homes on the street said they wanted to change the name for historical reasons. The city made the name change in 1939 because Moultrie Place, to be renamed Moultrie Court, intersected with Moultrie Street, causing confusion. A gay rights group said it was saddened by the residents' desire to change the name, but no one opposed the proposed change.

—From staff and wire reports

ATL mayor candidates face off at gay forum

Candidates pledge inclusion, gays in high-ranking administrative posts

by PENNY WEAVER

ATLANTA—The top three candidates vying for Atlanta's mayoral post pledged to pursue an Equal Benefits Ordinance for the city, study keeping clubs open 24 hours a day and include gays in the top ranks of their administrations during a forum last week.

The trio of political rivals—Spelman professor and former City Council member Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, management consultant and former city administrator Shirley Franklin, and City Council President Robb Pitts—answered questions for about 70 minutes Aug. 16 during a forum sponsored by the Atlanta Executive Network, a group for gay business executives.

They may disagree on who should lead the city in the post-Bill Campbell era, but they did agree on at least one issue: the need for inclusion for gay men and lesbians.

"[My cabinet] will look like what I think the city looks like today," Pitts said. "[Gays will be] key members of my cabinet."

Franklin and Bromell-Tinubu, like Pitts, also said they would includes gays in high-ranking administrative posts.

"We have to create a new culture—one that is inclusive," Bromell-Tinubu said. "I believe that I am the only candidate who has demonstrated [active inclusiveness]."

Mayoral hopeful Shirley Franklin said, "I am a candidate who, if you elect me, I'll make you proud. Each and every time you need a partner, you'll find it in Shirley Franklin."

About 150 people attended the forum, coming less than 90 days left in campaigning for the Nov. 6 election.

All three candidates said they would support—though at varying levels—an initiative to require businesses with city contracts to offer domestic partner benefits if they also offer spousal benefits, assuming such a measure is found to be legal under Georgia law.

"I am certainly committed to supporting such a piece of legislation," Bromell-Tinubu said. "I will continue to support the gay and lesbian community."

Franklin noted she would want to be sure that such a measure would stand up to constitutional challenges.

Pitts said that while he "personally supports" such a measure, he stopped short of promising to push for one.

"I caution you that I think it is fair to hear from the businesses affected," he said. "The right thing to do, though, is to hear from the other side. It's only fair to hear how the business community is going to react."

The three candidates also said they support further study of the city's new ban on 24-hour clubs like gay-popular Backstreet. That measure, passed in March, is being challenged in court.

Last year, the City Council also clarified a measure dictating limited pouring hours on Sundays, and the move resulted in the corking of alcoholic beverages at midnight on that day. Debate also focused on whether to stop bars from serving alcohol at 2 a.m. or 4 a.m.

Bromell-Tinubu said the problems associated with late-night reveling go back to zoning, parking and other issues.

"We are not enforcing the laws regarding public safety," she said. "We have to look at the root causes."

Franklin she favors 2 a.m. rather than 4 a.m. closings for alcohol-serving clubs in the city until the Atlanta Police Department is fully staffed.

"I will support a 24-hour city," she said.

Pitts said he personally favors allowing bars to be open all day and night if they choose, but he is concerned about incidents of violence that may be related to late-night drinking and the effects of residents who live near such establishments.

When it comes to concerns of residents, "I will come down on the side of earlier closings," he said.

—Matthew A. Hennie contributed to this report.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Atlanta mayoral candidates Gloria Bromell-Tinubu (left), Shirley Franklin and Robb Pitts answered a barrage of questions during a forum last week sponsored by a gay business group.

CAMPAIGN '01 Atlanta

Thank You Atlanta for reaching with us as we bid for Gay Games VII!

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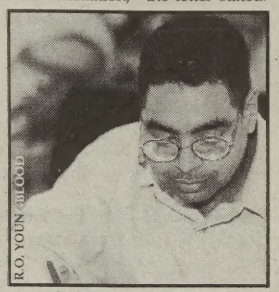
ATL activists protest arrests in Egypt on morals charges

ATLANTA—Members of Amnesty International and the gay Muslim organization Al Fatiha Atlanta met and wrote letters to the Egyptian government last week protesting that country's decision to detain 52 men who were arrested in May in a police raid on a floating nightclub on the Nile known as a gay venue. The letters were faxed on Aug. 15, the day of the detainees' hearing. "We fear that these men have solely been arrested for their alleged sexual orientation," the letter stated. "Amnesty International considers these men to be prisoners of conscience and demands their immediate and unconditional release." Suha Dabbouseh, membership program coordinator at Amnesty International USA, said letter-writing campaigns are often the most effective way to pressure a government. She and other activists at the meeting said that they hoped to persuade officials to release the men. Khalid Hussein, president of Al Fatiha Atlanta, said he has heard anecdotal accounts of the rape and torture of the 52 men being held in Egypt. The men were charged with "obscene behavior between men" under a prostitution law and two were charged with "contempt of religion." Homosexual conduct is not specifically outlawed in Egypt, but is severely frowned upon as taboo in the conservative country.

—Erin O'Briant



Several Atlanta gays, including activist Syed Naseeruddin, have written letters to the Egyptian government demanding the release of 52 facing men facing trial accused of being gay and of sexual immorality.

INFO
Amnesty International
131 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-876-5661

Gay political groups to host Sunday barbecue in Decatur

ATLANTA—The Human Rights Campaign Atlanta Steering Committee and Georgia Equality will co-host the fourth annual barbecue from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26, at My Sister's Room in Decatur, Ga. At the event, Georgia Equality, the statewide nonpartisan gay political group, will announce its endorsements for Atlanta City Council candidates. In addition, comic Mindy Dawn Friedman will perform, according to organizers. "This is a party with a purpose but not a high price tag," said Jim Hilderbrandt, co-chair of the event. "The barbecue is a terrific opportunity to mingle with old and new friends and meet the people who work for our equality locally and nationally." Tickets cost $10 in advance or $15 at the door. They may be purchased at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Charis Books & More and at Georgia Equality's office. The barbecue is sponsored by Cingular Wireless.

—Penny Weaver

INFO
Georgia Equality Inc.
P.O. Box 78351
Atlanta, GA 30357-2351
404-872-3600
www.georgiaequality.org

Women invited to join Feminist Women's Chorus

ATLANTA—The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus begins its 21st season next month and invites all females to join. In addition, the group has hired a permanent new artistic director. Eileen Moremen is a conductor, singer, teacher and actor who brings years of experience to AFWC, according to Shilpa Mehta, publicity chair for the group. "I think that her overall experience will continue to take the chorus toward musical excellence," Mehta said. Anyone interested in joining the chorus is asked to attend a 3 p.m. rehearsal on Sept. 9 at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Future rehearsals will take place Sundays at the church from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Women interested in joining do not have to audition, Mehta added. The AFWC pledges a policy of inclusiveness and welcomes women of all backgrounds, cultures, ages, sexual orientations and economic classes.

—Penny Weaver

INFO
Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus
Sept. 9, 3 p.m.
Druid Hills
Presbyterian Church
1026 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30308
770-438-5823
www.geocities.com/West Hollywood/1571

Session on gay health to precede ATL confab

ATLANTA—The American Public Health Association will hold its annual conference in Atlanta from Oct. 21-25 with events including a training session for health professionals on the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Continuing education institutes are held before the conference. "I think it's critical. I know we can't do everything within eight hours, but we hope… we'll get a good turnout," said Dr. Nancy Kennedy, one of the trainers who submitted the idea for the CEI on gay health. Kennedy, who works for the Department of Health & Human Services in the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, said health care providers need training that is focused on gays. The cost of the seven-hour workshop is $100. Registration fees increase after Sept. 14, and the maximum number of participants is 125.

—Penny Weaver

INFO
American Public Health Association
Continuing education institutes
Prior to Oct. 21-25 conference in Atlanta
Register online:
www.apha.org/education

Initial probe complete for gay bias case

Atlanta Human Relations Commission firms up investigation as mayoral candidates pledge funds to cash-strapped panel

by ERIN O'BRIANT

ATLANTA—The initial investigation into the first complaint filed with the new Atlanta Human Relations Commission has been handed over to the commission chair and will be read at a meeting Tuesday, according to Kenneth Britt, the commission's only openly gay member.

The complaint involves a gay man who claims harassment by his employer. The results of the initial investigation, handled by an outside investigator, will not become public until next week's meeting.

The commission has the power to order mediation or recommend that a company be barred from city contracts if it finds that discrimination has occurred.

As commission members were firming up their procedures for investigating complaints last week, a second discrimination case came before the panel.

According to Britt, the initial investigative report on the anti-gay harassment complaint filed by John Snyder against Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Ethicon was completed on Aug. 17, 30 days after the panel received notice that Ethicon had been served with the complaint.

The ordinance that created the commission states that an investigation report must be turned in to the panel within 30 days after the complaint was filed.

The bias panel received a second case last week, according to HRC Chair Karen Patten. She said the complaint was filed by a man who claims he did not get a job based on his gender. The second case will also be handled by an outside attorney.

Initially, the municipal clerk's office was designated to investigate complaints filed with the bias panel. But the office is not equipped to handle research the complaints, said Patten, so the commission will hire outside attorneys to investigate its cases.

Anyone can file a complaint with the HRC alleging discrimination at the hands of a private business, housing or public accommodations within the city limits. The law, sponsored by openly gay city council member Cathy Woolard and passed last year, includes sexual orientation as a protected category.

Although the panel currently has no budget, all three mayoral candidates pledged to provide funding to beef up the commission at a candidates' forum last week.

"They will have the necessary funds to do their jobs," City Council President Robb Pitts said.

Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, a professor and former City Council member, said she hopes to use the panel to promote conflict resolution in schools, while former city administrator Shirley Franklin indicated support for more outreach. She said she would "expand their powers if they need to expand their reach."

Snyder has decided to pursue his case before both the commission and in Fulton County Superior Court because the two avenues offer two different kinds of relief if an employer is found guilty, said Jane Morrison, an openly gay Atlanta attorney representing him.

'The wheels of justice turn mighty slow,' said Jane Morrison, the attorney for John Snyder, a gay man who filed a complaint with the Atlanta Human Relations Commission and a civil case against his former employer.

In both cases, Snyder claims he was "accosted and subjected to personal harassment" after Andrew Tosdevin, Ethicon's product director, allegedly used the term "packer" during a formal presentation to sales representatives.

Representatives from Ethicon's headquarters in Somerville, N.J., have said the company does not discriminate and denied any wrongdoing in Snyder's case.

INFO

Atlanta Human Relations Commission
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave. SW
Atlanta, GA 30335
www.ci.atlanta.ga.us

To file a bias complaint in Atlanta
Rhonda Johnson
Atlanta Municipal Clerk
55 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 2700
Atlanta, GA 30335
404-330-6031

OBITUARY

Gene Handley, 56

ATLANTA—Just the mention of Gene Handley's name makes his friends and acquaintances smile, and that's because he was always ready with a smile and funny comment about anything and everything, according to friends.

When news of his death on Aug. 7 spread, friends still were anxious to remember and exchange "Gene Handley stories" in an effort to share the person they knew and loved.

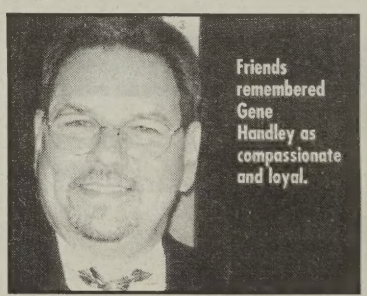
Handley died at his Morningside Atlanta home after a lengthy fight with cancer. His body was cremated, according to his wishes. During the past two years he had repeatedly overcome tremendous odds and amazed doctors at his will to live.

"He just kept going and going; he wouldn't give up... at everything he did," said Betty McGehee, who worked with Handley for many years at Gene & Gabe's restaurant.

At his bedside were Harry Neville, his partner of 23 years, and longtime friend Dottie Lundeen, who took a leave of absence from her job in Charleston, S.C., to help care for Handley.

William Eugene Handley was born March 30, 1945, in Pensacola, Fla., where he grew up and graduated from Pensacola High School. After graduation, he attended college in Pensacola and later enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served from 1963-65.

Handley then returned to Pensacola and worked several years for Pensacola Office Supply before making a permanent move to his new home, Atlanta.



Friends remembered Gene Handley as compassionate and loyal.

Handley went to work for Gene & Gabe's, a popular Atlanta restaurant, and quickly became one of the most successful and popular servers there. Before he moved from there in 1989, he was promoted to restaurant manager.

From Gene & Gabe's, Handley took over as manager of Highland Tap, where he worked until illness forced him to leave. In no time his witty personality was again one of the bright spots in that restaurant, too.

"He was compassionate, understanding, loyal... all these things, but his love and devotion to others and his sincere zest for life is what I will remember always," said Ted Simmons, his friend of 30-something years from Pensacola.

In lieu of flowers, Handley requested that donations be made to his favorite charity, Project Open Hand/Atlanta.

There will be a private memorial service in Atlanta.

'Music' mania

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Thousands of gays flocked to Philips Arena Sunday and Monday for Madonna's 'Drowned World Tour 2001' stop in Atlanta, the legendary performer's first tour in eight years and first Atlanta stop in more than a decade. Obsessed fans paid hundreds of dollars for a ticket to see the pop icon, joining some 19,000 people at Philips on Sunday.

Featured Homes

Ansley Park: 53 Montgomery Ferry Drive, Atlanta, GA 30309

$449,900
3 BR / 2 BA

Features: Renovated Bungalow with a Full Basement

This wonderfully renovated 3BR/2BA Bungalow in the heart of prestigious Ansley Park has all the charm of the Craftsman Era! Hardwood floors throughout the home, the fireplace in the living room huge separate dining room and separate laundry room are just some of the features you'll love! The plumbing and electrical systems have been replaced (including the main water line!) and the roof is new! All you need to do is move in and enjoy. The bonus/sunroom is currently used as a nursery. The home has a huge full basement with interior access for lots of extra storage! The incredible garden-like back yard will inspire and delight you! You won't find a better value in this sought-after neighborhood!

Listing Agents:
Darryl Quellette
Mark Jones

Grant Park: 389 Georgia Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30312

$369,900
4 BR / 3 BA

Features: New Construction

Another quality home by Capstone Partners! This home has the very best quality construction along with an incredible sense of Craftsman Style, not to mention an unbelievable floor plan! All the details have been considered in designing this light and bright home, full of Craftsman-style four-light windows. With four large bedrooms, three full baths, an incredible kitchen with island (complete with cherry cabinets and granite countertops!) opening up to a huge dining room, large living room with fireplace, great front porch and back deck, you will not believe the space in this home! The partial basement is perfect for additional storage or future expansion! Don't wait! Capstone Homes don't stay on the market very long!

Listing Agents:
Darryl Quellette
Mark Jones

Grant Park: 318 Sydney Street SE, Atlanta, GA 30312

$229,900
3 BR / 2 BA

Features: Livable Fixer-Upper

This 3BR/2BA home needs cosmetics but has tons of potential. It has all the ingredients for a wonderful home: hardwood floors, high ceilings, tall windows with lots of light, original fireplaces and mantels, a large lot with alley access for off-street parking, a wonderful rocking chair front porch... what more could you need? How about a great location? Just walking distance to retail, restaurants and the park, this home has the location, too!

Listing Agents:
Darryl Quellette
Mark Jones

Poncey Highland: 1027 North Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30306 NEW!

$529,900
3 BR / 2 BA

Features:
1.5 Story Craftsman Bungalow

This renovated 3BR/2BA brick Bungalow (circa 1920) in popular Poncey Highland is a one-of-a-kind treasure! With its huge living room, gorgeous kitchen with granite countertops and new appliances, screened porch, sunroom and formal dining room, this property has tons of space! With lots and lots of original windows, this house is light and bright! Enjoy the privacy of the upstairs master suite with a fabulous master bath complete with jacuzzi tub. With original windows on all sides of the suite, the master is a bright yet private retreat nestled among the trees. Loaded with old world charm, you'll enjoy the period details, from the 11+ foot ceilings and refinished oak floors to the butler's pantry, built-in bookcases, original front door and two sets of French doors, this home is an architectural delight! Set majestically on a hill, this home has a separate renovated in-law/guest suite above the one-car garage behind the home.

Listing Agents:
Jodi Patterson

dwellings
a real estate co.

Other Homes

Virginia-Highland:
1 BR/1 BA Condominiums
$129,900 - $135,900

Cabbagetown:
4 BR/2 BA Duplex with 2BR/1BA on each side, $279,900

Howell Station:
2 BR/1 BA Victorian Bungalow, $164,900

For Rent

Historic Grant Park: 500 Hill Street SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30312
1 BR/1 BA Renovated Craftsman Bungalow Duplex, $1095.00/month
This completely renovated home in Historic Grant Park is the right-hand side of a Craftsman Bungalow duplex located walking distance to the Park, Kelley's Grocery, and other neighborhood restaurants and services. With a formal living room (with working gas coal fireplace) and separate dining room, this 1BR/1BA home is PERFECT! From the wonderful rocking chair front porch with a seasonal view of the Atlanta skyline, to the period light fixtures, this is the kind of historic charm that brings people to Grant Park! The renovated kitchen with new appliances, new sink and faucet fixtures and maple cabinets will stun you! Sunlight dances into the kitchen through stained glass windows.

Dwellings, a real estate co. Equal Housing Opportunity
506-B Moreland Ave. • Atlanta • GA 30307-1424
404.522.5555
dwellingsRealEstate.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
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atlanta/ga. occasions

birthdays

'Happy birthday Todd and Luke from Mom and Mommy. We love you!'

'Mark M.—Happy 40th. If this birthday gets as wild as 10 years ago, we're worried. Have a great trip. Love, everybody who survived your 30th.'

Enlight Atlanta wishes Dewey Sadka (Aug. 16), Tom Dempsey (Aug. 17), Michael Sheldon (Aug. 18) and Tim Almy (Aug. 21) very happy birthdays.

Atlanta Front Runners wishes happy birthdays to Bill Stringfellow on Aug. 23 and Glenn Herrera on Aug. 27.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its member Butch Brown (Baritone) on Aug. 25.

announcements

Jason Greene (left) celebrates with entertainer Elexa at the 12th anniversary party of the Phoenix last week. Jason also looks forward to hosting a benefit party—'Blond Ambition Event'—to raise funds for Project Open Hand on Sunday, Aug. 26, at Rico's View on Ponce.

Southern Voice *will gladly publish birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives. Simply e-mail your special occasions to* Southern Voice *at occasions@sovo.com. Call: 404-876-1819. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write:* Southern Voice/*Occasions, 1095 Zonolite Rd., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30306. NOTE: You must include a phone number. All occasions are verified by telephone.*

Fashion show to benefit AIDS charity

Organizers of decade-old event hope to double $100,000 raised last year

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—What began as a simple shoe show 11 years ago has exploded into one of Atlanta's premiere fashion events and charity fund-raisers.

Native Atlantan and renowned designer Jeffrey Kalinsky will host the 11th annual FashionCares show to benefit local charities and organizers say they hope to surpass the $100,000 raised through last year's event.

Kalinsky began his career in the fashion industry with his Bob Ellis shoe store in Atlanta and has expanded it to the epicenter of American fashion, New York City. The show, which will take place at the Woodruff Arts Center on Aug. 27, will feature dozens of hot footwear fashions from some of the best designers in the industry.

"It's such a great evening because it is so fun. It is not at all stuffy. It's fun. It's crazy," said Jim Whitlow, vice president of Jeffrey Atlanta, one of Kalinsky's local stores.

Proceeds from this year's show will benefit Project Open Hand and St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services. Project Open Hand has been delivering meals to Atlantans living with AIDS since 1988.

Founded by Atlanta artist Michael Edwards-Pruitt, who began by delivering meals to 14 friends, the non-profit organization has delivered more than 4 million meals. The agency recently expanded its services to feed people living with debilitating diseases aside from AIDS.

Both agencies stand to greatly benefit from the event: FashionCares raised $100,000 later year and organizers hope to double that at next week's event.

"We run the tightest ship when it comes to the dollars," Whitlow said. "We're already projected way ahead with sponsors. Our vendors have given more money this year. All the vendors that we carry in the store, we ask them to help us with our cause and we're already over in just vendor support. I think it's $30,000 alone with them."

Because the vast majority of supplies are donated, Whitlow said they typically are able to give close to 90 percent of the proceeds to charity.

"That is a very large sum of money for a community benefit for Project Open Hand and I would say just in general, with the community events that they have in Atlanta," said Amanda Hopkins, development director for Project Open Hand. "They just have a great committee of folks that are putting the event together."

The is the first year Project Open Hand will be a beneficiary, though many other AIDS service organizations in Atlanta have benefited from the event in the past, including AID Atlanta. FashionCares selects new beneficiaries each year.

JEFF SLATE

The annual FashionCares show, highlighting the latest trends in fashion and footwear, is considered the kick-off of the fall shopping season in Atlanta.

"Jeffrey really likes to impact the local community," Whitlow said. "He only deals with chapters that the money can stay local, that's very important to him. He really wants to keep the money here; he still considers this his home. Jeffrey says Atlanta is his home and he wants to put his money into this home."

To help raise this year's pot of money, FashionCares is expanding the event. Guests will enjoy a cocktail hour and runway show, as well as take part in an auction and a silent auction with extravagant items on the auction block.

Three vacation packages will be up for bidding, which will include airfare and hotel accommodations in Atlanta, New York and Paris. The Paris and New York trips also include tickets to actual Michael Kors and Chanel runway fashion shows.

When Kalinsky held his first FashionCares show 11 years ago, it was only for clients of his Atlanta boutique. This year, they expect close to 9,000 people to attend the event.

INFO

FashionCares 2001

Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. (reception), 8:30 p.m. (fashion show)

Woodruff Arts Center

1280 Peachtree St. NE

Tickets available at Jeffrey, Phipps Plaza and Carter-Barnes

General admission: $100

Reserved Seating: $250

VIP Seating: $500

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athens

saturday, aug 25

GLBT Teen Group. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611. stock@negia.net.

monday, aug 27

Lambda Alliance. 7 pm. UGA's GLBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. No meetings during breaks or finals weeks. jcraig@arches.uga.edu

atlanta

friday, aug 24

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 7:30 pm.. Ladies Night Swim. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Gay Hockey Atlanta. Evening practices. Play or watch. Duluth IceForum. 678-924-0960. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com.

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30 pm-12 am. Community Social (ages 13-24), 8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

saturday, aug 25

Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

Front Runners. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Georgia Field Hockey Association Women's League. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

GLBT Roswell. 5-7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North. CHenry8015@aol.com

sunday, aug 26

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 11 am. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Fourth Sunday. 4 pm. Black lesbians with children. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

monday, aug 27

Family, Friends, Partners & Volunteers. 7 pm. AIDGwinnett. First United Methodist Church of Covington, 1113 Conyers St, Covington, 770-962-8396

Gay Single Mingle. 6:30-9:30 pm. Miss-Q's Neighborhood Bar, Midtown. Members $10, nonmembers $15. Robyn 404-872-5325

tuesday, aug 28

Atlanta Outworlders. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" and "Dark Angel." 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

GLBT Parenting Group. 7 pm. For gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Please call 404-523-7500

Fourth Tuesday. Doors open 6:30 pm, introductions at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm.. Make reservations by 5 pm Friday. A women-only event. Ramada Inn, I-85 at Monroe. 770-662-4353

Front Runners Run/Walk. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Gender-Bender, 8-10 pm. Youth Pride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

wednesday, aug 29

Front Runners 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Volunteer Meeting. 4-7 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Teen Support Group (ages 13-18), 6-7:30 pm. Youth Council, 7:30-8:30 pm. Young Adult Discussion Group (ages 18-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

thursday, aug 30

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Dungeons & Dragons. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. Contact ajones@mindspring.com

Lesbian Avengers. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262, ext. 7744. lesbianavengers@onebox.com

Men's Discussion Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500.

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Boy Talk (ages 13-18), 8-10 pm. Womyn's Group (ages 13-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

upcoming/ongoing

Flea Market. Aug. 31 & Sept. 1. To benefit Crusselle-Freeman Church of the Deaf. 1304 Allene Ave. SW. 404-753-2511 or www.crusselle-freeman.com

Acting Classes. For youth and adults. Georgia Ensemble Theatre & Conservatory, Roswell. 770-641-1260

Always Enrolling. "Slipping & Sliding" safer sex workshop; "Boys Will be Boys" safer sex workshop for guys under 25. Gay outreach volunteers needed. Steve at AID Atlanta. 404-870-7763 or dooleys@aidatlanta.org

Free Counseling and HIV-antibody tests. Mon-Fri 9:30 am-7 pm. Sat 9 am-1 pm. Our Common Welfare. 4329 Memorial Drive, Suite H, Decatur. 404-296-3090. Also at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW every other Tues. 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515

HIV/STD Testing. Mon-Thur, 5:30-9 pm. Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, confidential testing for STDs; hepatitis A, B, C; vaccination for hepatitis B. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

Eluzai. Spiritual empowerment group for African-American lesbians & bisexual women. 404-630-5252

Home But Not Alone. House-sharing for people with HIV/AIDS. 404-603-2527

Interns Sought. Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Washington, DC. 202-842-8679

Library Open. Mon-Wed, 6-9 pm. Thur, 5-9 pm. Fri, 5-6:30 pm. Free. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

Ryan White Funds Available. Money is available to AIDS organizations in the 20-county metro area. For an information packet, call 404-893-0791

Tricks Bridge Club. Group for gay men and women who enjoy bridge. All skill levels welcome. Write Mark, PO Box 52321, Atlanta, Ga 30355

Volunteers Needed. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

Volunteers Needed. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center. 404-523-7500

columbus

upcoming/ongoing

Columbus Stonewall Democrats. June 15, 7 pm. 3401 Thirteenth Ave. abear62@hotmail.com

macon

friday

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Free.

savannah

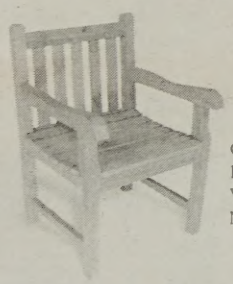
sunday

Friends & Company. 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

monday

Bowling League. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320.

Gay & Lesbian Parents Group. 7:30 pm. Rich 912-920-6850



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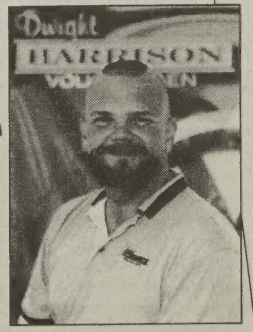


Benefits offered to those who 'can't legally marry'

➢ Continued from Page 1

situation with this package.

"For me, it's fiscal conservatism. We don't know what this is going to cost yet, and we can always redress the issue anytime," he said.

Cunningham first asked city staff to study offering domestic partner benefits in June. A report prepared by Personnel Officer Cassandra Breedlove recommending same-sex DP benefits only was presented to the City Commission at an Aug. 6 work session and immediately put on the Aug. 20 agenda. The version drafted by Breedlove passed the Commission without a single word change.

The benefits will take effect Jan. 1, 2002, and city officials said they expect an annual cost to the city of lesss than $20,000.

Decatur's decision to offer the benefits drew praise from Georgia Equality, a statewide gay political group that has lobbied for domestic partner benefits, but was not involved in the Decatur effort.

"It's always wonderful when governments do the right thing for gay folks," said Harry Knox, the group's executive director. "I think this is a model for how governments should approach this issue."

Such wasn't the case in Fulton County, where Georgia Equality and Fulton County Commissioner Nancy Boxill had pushed for DP benefits for gay and straight couples.

The resolution by Boxill was introduced with no discussion and voted on a week later. Boxill said before she introduced the legislation that she expected her conversations with her colleagues about it to take place during the seven days between the introduction and the vote.

No gay groups rallied supporters to attend the Fulton County Commission meeting, and the vote rejecting the benefits generated almost no public response from gay constituents.

Although several commissioners made comments suggesting their objections focused on including unmarried heterosexuals, Knox at the time defended Georgia Equality's decision to push for DP benefits for both same- and opposite-sex partners.

"[Courts have] literally come close to instructing [municipalities] to add straight people to those covered because they said it was illegtimate to offer gay people a benefit that was not going to be offered to straight people, which is frankly a theory we don't disagree with," Knox said.

Offering DP benefits to both gay and heteroseuxla couples avoids the appearance of asking for "special rights" for gays, while also supporting the rights of heterosexal women who are often "marginalized financially" and may lose death benefits from a first husband if they marry again, he said.

Knox refused comment on Decatur's decision to offer the benefits only to gay couples.

Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, a conservative Republican, has in the past rejected requests to offer same-sex only domestic partner benefits, citing a legal opinion issued by former Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers, also a gay rights foe.

But unlike Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County, which approved DP benefits for gay and straight couples in April, Decatur does not need Oxendine's approval to offer the benefits.

Because the small city is self-insured, meaning it pays its own insurance claims, it is not under Oxendine's regulatory control.

Gay rep could face gay rights opponent

➢ Continued from Page 1

what all of this is about: It's ugly and nasty and all boils down to D's and R's."

Gays would likely benefit from having more Democrats in the General Assembly, political observers said.

"Generally, Democrats will be more responsive to the concerns of the gay community than Republicans, and this is partisan gerrymandering," said Charles Bullock, a political scientist at the University of Georgia.

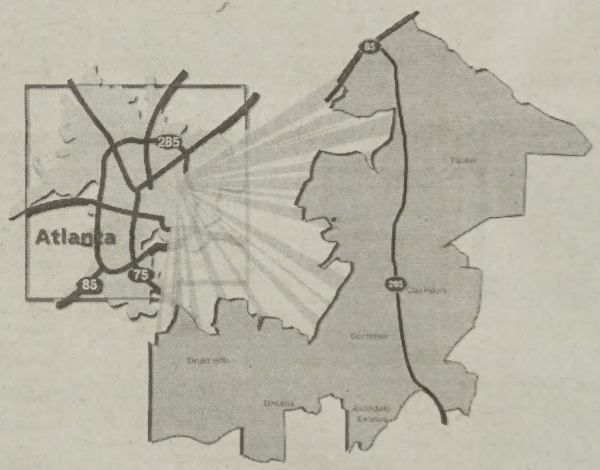
But what could help gay issues in the long run could seriously jeopardize the General Assembly's only gay member in the short-term, Drenner said.

The new House map drawn by the General Assembly put Drenner, who currently represents District 66, into the new District 52.

The new district would have three incumbents: Drenner; current District 67 Rep. Stephanie Stuckey (D-Decatur), a strong gay rights supporter; and current District 63 Rep. Paul Jennings (R-Atlanta), who voted against hate crimes legislation and told a gay group in his area that he believes gays are "sinners" who should remain celibate.

Picking up the more conservative voters who have elected Jennings would be difficult, but the addition of several generally progressive areas—including Emory, Decatur, Druid Hills and parts of Northlake—would not make re-election impossible, Drenner said when the map was approved last week.

At the time, Drenner said she was relieved that the three wouldn't actually compete with each other for votes in the three-member District 52.



The multi-member district proposed by the General Assembly for openly gay Rep. Karla Drenner would have encompassed several gay-friendly areas, including Decatur, Emory, Druid Hills and parts of Northlake. But concerns about fewer black voters in the new district have sent it back to the drawing board.

Instead, the multi-member district would have three "posts." Drenner, like Stuckey and Jennings, would first face a primary where she will face off with any challengers from within her own political party. Any challengers from the other party would also compete in a primary.

The winners of the Democratic and Republican primaries for each post would then face each other in a two-person match up on the general election ballot in November 2002. Voters from throughout the new district would cast votes for all three posts representing their district.

Possible anti-gay opponent?

But with the District 52 lines coming under fire for racial reasons this week, Drenner staying in a three-member district wasn't one of the options presented to her by the governor's staff on Tuesday.

Instead, she said she was given two choices: a single-member, majority black district with somewhat different boundaries than her current area; or moving into a two-post district with Stuckey and Jennings.

Having three incumbents running for two seats would likely pit Drenner and Jennings against each other on the ballot, because as the only Republican, he would pick which Democrat to run against, Drenner said.

"If you were Paul Jennings and you had to pick between Stephanie Stuckey, of the Stuckey restaurant chain family, and Karla Drenner, lesbian, who would you pick?" Drenner asked. "Can you spell ugly?"

In a race against Jennings with Republicans hungry to gain more seats in the House, Drenner said she believes the campaign would definitely take an anti-gay turn.

"My sexual orientation will be fodder for the campaign, and the question is, is the gay community ready and willing to stand up and fight for me?" she said. "Are they willing to take on the Christian Coalition?"

The proposed new single-member, majority black district could also make re-election more difficult, Drenner said.

"The concern would be an African-American challenger in the primary, although I have won in a majority black district before," Drenner said. "I think if you represent the district, skin color doesn't matter."

Pro-gay district also under fire

Another proposed multi-member district that some observers said could be a pro-gay seat in the General Assembly also faces criticism for possibly diluting black votes.

As drawn by the General Assembly, the new District 41 would have included Grant Park, Midtown, Morningside, Buckhead and Brookhaven and extend north of the Perimeter to part of Sandy Springs.

It would have four members: three incumbents—Reps. Jim Martin, Nan Orrock and Kathy Ashe, all gay-friendly Atlanta Democrats—plus an open seat.

But Orrock's old District 56, like Drenner's old District 66, was majority black, while the new District 41 would be only 23 percent black—making it also open to criticism about diluting black voting.

Gays will likely pay special attention to the debate because of Martin's impending resignation to become head of the state's Department of Human Resources.

A special election will be held to fill Martin's current District 47 seat prior to the new districts going into effect, and an openly gay candidate— Bob Whitelaw, a leader with the national and Georgia Stonewall Democrats—is one of four declared candidates for the post.

A date for the special election has not yet been set, according to the Secretary of State's office. Whoever wins would then face re-election under the new district maps in 2002.

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GLBT Teen Support Group. Saturdays, 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611. stock@negia.net

HIV/AIDS Support Groups. Monthly meetings, free childcare and meal provided. AIDS Coalition of Northeast Georgia. 706-542-AIDS

atlanta

20-Something. First Sunday, 6:30 pm. For persons 20-30. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. 404-523-7500

AIDS Information & Referral Line. Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. AIDS Survival Project hotline for people living with HIV/AIDS. 404-874-7926

AIDS Survival Project. Information about resources available to people with AIDS, including THRIVE! Weekends, two-day conferences with free food and childcare provided. 404-874-7926, 1-877-AIDS-444. 404-524-0464 (TTY)

Alcoholics Anonymous. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, corner Woodland & Delaware Aves. 404-627-2216

Alcoholics Anonymous. Tuesdays, 8 pm. Ga Baptist Medical Center's Newton House, 320 Parkway Dr. 800-651-8191

Atlanta Gender Explorations. First Saturday, 5-8 pm (for members); Third Saturday, call for time (for newcomers). Support group. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, 1071 Delaware Ave SE. 770-517-0265

Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative Groups. Weekly meetings. Group for lesbians with cancer, their partners and loved ones; also a bereavement group. 1530 DeKalb Ave., Suite A. 404-688-2524 or alci-atlanta@mindspring.com

Bereavement. Tuesdays, 7-9 pm. Group offering a safe, non-judgmental place where people are encouraged to experience their grief, tears, anger and to tell their own story. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

BiNature. Third Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Bisexual/bi-friendly discussion and support group. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta, GA 30307. 404-256-8992. binet.home.mindspring.com

BiNet Atlanta. First Friday, 8 pm. Support and social group for bisexuals. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. Call to confirm meeting. www.mindspring.com/~binet/. 404-256-8992

Children of Lesbians & Gays Support Group. Discussion group for children whose parents are gay. For information, call Becky, 770-649-6368

Dating Workshop. For gay men exploring strategies for dating success. Class starts June 26. To register, call 404-870-7763

Double Trouble in Recovery. Wednesdays, 7-8 pm. Peer-led 12-step group for individuals living with HIV and dealing with mental health related challenges and substance abuse issues, past or present. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

Folami. Second Saturday, Noon (general meeting) &. 1:30 pm (topic-based support group). For black lesbian and bisexual women. AID Atlanta, 1438 W Peachtree St., 404-284-3053, or folamiatl@aol.com

Free counseling and HIV tests. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 am-7 pm. Sat 9 am-1 pm. Our Common Welfare, 4329 Memorial Drive, Suite H, Decatur. 404-296-3090. Also at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW every other Tues. 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515

Friends, Families & Volunteers Support Group. 3rd Tuesday. 7:30 pm. AID Gwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 28.

Friends for Life. Second & Fourth Saturdays, 2 pm-4 pm. For African-American men In The Life. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

Gay Fathers of Atlanta. Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm. 404-342-6451 or www.members.aol.com/gfatlanta/

GLBT Parents Group. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

Grief Support Group. Every Sunday, 5:15 pm. Abundant Grace Community Church, 743 Virginia Ave. Call Dot 770-923-5714

Group Therapy. Come discover your full potential in the diversity of a supportive group! Call for screening and registration. Atlanta Center for Social Therapy. 770-242-2120.

HIV-negative Men's Group. Wednesdays, 7 pm. For HIV-negative men who have sex with other men. Presented by Positive Impact. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 6th Floor. To register, call 404-589-9040 ext. 302

HIV/STD testing. Monday to Thursday, 5:30-9 pm. Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, confidential testing for STDs; hepatitis A, B, C vaccination for hepatitis B. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

HIV-positive African-American Men's Support Group. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

HIV-positive Women 45 & Older Support Group. Thursdays, 11 am-noon. Shariffa Dempsey 404-885-6800

Infected/Affected Support Group. Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Infected Men's Group. Mondays, 7 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Living Well With HIV. Group for persons with HIV interested in self-improvement as they learn to live well with HIV. Positive Impact. Call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040, ext. 307

Long Term Survivors. For persons infected five or more years with HIV. Positive Impact. Call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040, ext. 307

Meditations for the New Millennium. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group for persons affected by HIV on many different styles of meditation. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-627-8708

Men's Discussion Group. Every Thursday, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

Men's Transformational Breathwork Group. Monthly group workshops popular with gays. Call Jeff, 404-636-2494. www.ahealingplace.com

Newly Diagnosed. Thursdays, 6-8 pm. Absolute Wellness. BRAC Center, 2581 Piedmont Rd., Ste A-1000. Lindbergh Plaza (Sydney Marcus side). 404-264-9011

People with AIDS. 4th Monday, 7 pm. AIDGwinnett. First United Methodist Church of Covington, 1113 Conyers St., Covington. 770-962-8396

Positive Attitude. Tuesdays, 7-9 pm. HIV-positive gay and bisexual men. Absolute Wellness. BRAC Center, 2581 Piedmont Rd., Ste. A-1000. Lindbergh Plaza. 404-264-9011

Positively Living Support Group. Mondays, 7:30 pm. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

Potter's House. Mondays, 12 noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Psychotherapy & Personal Growth. Long-term psychotherapy group. Call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040, ext. 307

P.U.F.F. 2nd Sunday. Support group for infected/affected HIV/AIDS females. Putting Unified Female First. Absolute Wellness. BRAC Center, 2581 Piedmont Rd., Ste. A-1000. Lindbergh Plaza (Sydney Marcus Side). Call Fay Gordon, 404-264-9011

PWA Support Group. Thursdays, 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. P.O. Box 884, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0884. 770-962-8396

Risk Reduction. On-going group exploring issues of substance abuse and how it relates to unhealthy behavior. Positive Impact. Mollye, 404-589-9040, ext. 304

Serenity Group of AA. Monday, 5:45 & 8 p.m. Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, 5:45, 7 & 8 p.m. Thursday, 5:45 p.m. Friday, 5:45 & 8 p.m. Saturday, 6:30 & 8 p.m. Sunday, 3 & 4:45 p.m. Meets at the Galano Clubhouse at 285 Dutch Valley Rd.

Sex & Relationship Addiction Recovery Groups. Gay meetings Monday and Wednesday evenings. Mixed meetings daily throughout metro Atlanta. 404-239-8048. www.sca-recovery.org

Straight Spouse Support Network. 3rd Sunday, 2:30-4 pm. For those whose partners are gay. Cathedral of St. Philips, 2744 Peachtree Rd. 770-649-6368

Women Living with HIV. Group for women living with HIV. Call Sabrina, 404-589-9040, ext. 302

Women's Discussion Group. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th floor. 404-523-7500

Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. Tuesdays, 5:15 pm. Closed confidential group, limited spaces. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

Yoga & Meditation for HIV/AIDS. Thursdays, 5-6:15 pm. Donation requested. Jaya Devi Yoga Studio, 312C N Highland Ave. 404-688-6757

columbus

Chattahoochee Valley PFLAG. 2nd Monday, 7:30-9:30 pm. 1442 Double Churches Road. (334) 291-5153, 7:30-9:30 pm or PFLAGpress@aol.com

macon

AIDS Support Group. Wednesdays, 6 pm. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Open to those living with HIV/AIDS, their family and friends.

Lambda AA Support Group. Fridays, 7 pm. free. Rikki 912-742-0134

PFLAG. 2nd Sunday, 2 pm. Open to the public. 912-328-0497

REACH OUT Breast Cancer Support Group. 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm. Focal Point Women, 4075 Elnora Dr. All sexual orientations welcome. Free. 912-474-0000

savannah

Alcoholics Anonymous. Wednesdays, 8 pm. First City Network office. 912-233-4255

Any Lengths Group AA. Sundays, 7 pm. Recovery Place. 912-233-4255

CASE. Weekly meetings of HIV/AIDS support group. Richard Pfister, 912-659-AIDS.

Gay Youth Group. 3rd Thursday, 7 pm. First City Network office, third floor. Gene 800-484-1913, pin 5353

HIV/AIDS Support Group. Mondays, 5:30 pm. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123

HIV-positive Substance Abuse. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am-noon. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123.

My Brothaz Home. 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6 pm. Support group for HIV-positive African American males. Call Mark Douglas, 912-790-7300

Project Azuka. Thursdays, 10:30 am. Women's HIV-positive support group. Call Pandora Singleton, 912-233-6733

Women who sleep with women are susceptible to STDs

A study led by Dr. Seth L. Welles found that women who sleep with women face a 'small but not negligible' risk for STDs.

MINNEAPOLIS—Researchers reported in the August issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* that sexually transmitted diseases among women who have sex with women often go undiagnosed because many believe they are not susceptible to STDs, according to Reuters. "Frequently women who have female partners, as well as their physicians, have considered that these women are at low risk for STDs, but while the risk may be small it is not negligible," said Greta R. Bauer, a researcher from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in Minneapolis. Bauer and Dr. Seth L. Welles collected data on 286 women attending the Twin Cities Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Festival in 1997 and found that 21 percent reported having been previously diagnosed with an STD. Of those, 13 percent reported only having sex with women. "This study underscores the importance of routine diagnostic procedures such as Pap smears and STD testing even in women who have only had female partners," Bauer said.

New HIV vaccine developed in Atlanta shows promise

ATLANTA—A new HIV vaccine that has been tested in monkeys is currently on a development fast track for human clinical trials, the *AIDS Reader* reported. Scientists from Emory University and the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases combined two vaccines in a strategy that kept an HIV-like virus from developing in monkeys, even when the animals were exposed to very high doses of the virus months after immunization. Both vaccines were designed against SHIV, a virus containing components of HIV and the related monkey virus, simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV). SHIV infection mimics HIV infection, causing serious illness in macaque monkeys, according to the *Reader*. The report showed that 23 of the 24 vaccinated monkeys suppressed the virus to nearly undetectable levels during the 20-week follow-up. Virus levels in the remaining animal were intermittently higher but still more than 100 times lower than those in the four control animals that did not receive the vaccine. Although all 28 monkeys were infected, the vaccinated monkeys showed lower SHIV levels and quickly began to suppress the virus further.

U.S. Surgeon General says he won't seek reappointment

ANNISTON, Ala. (AP)—U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher will not seek reappointment to the nation's top medical post when his term expires in February, he said. "I would like to serve the remainder of my term in its entirety," Satcher told the staff of the *Anniston Star* during a visit to his home town last week. Satcher was sworn in as surgeon general Feb. 13, 1998, in an Oval Office ceremony with former President Clinton. Some conservatives wanted Satcher to resign in June after he released a report saying there's no evidence that teaching abstinence from sex works or that gays can become straight. Satcher said he would consider "how I can best serve the nation" after his four-year term ends. Satcher's most prominent work involved disease prevention, mental health and AIDS campaigns.

Green tea linked with reduced breast cancer risk

BOSTON—Drinking green tea on a regular basis may help protect women against breast cancer, according to a report in the July *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry*. Investigators stated in the preliminary report that rats that drank water containing green tea had reductions in the size of heart tumors compared with rats that drank only water. Additionally, tumors of tea-drinking rats developed later and were less invasive. The findings "suggest that green tea can be protective against breast cancer induced by environmental carcinogens," Dr. Gail Sonenshein, a professor of biochemistry at Boston University School of Medicine & Public Health, told Reuters. The findings, coupled with observations of lower rates of breast cancer in countries where green tea is con- ...ggest that green tea may benefit women as part of an overall ... patients who are undergoing radiation ...lt with their doctors before

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Black Gay Pride speaks for itself

After a tough year in 2001, Atlanta Black Gay Pride is back with its first-ever Pride march

by ERIN O'BRIANT

Atlanta Black Gay Pride almost burned out. But only almost.

The annual social and educational event that's happened every Labor Day weekend as long as most Atlantans can remember nearly collapsed under the combined pressure of exhausted organizers and overextended volunteers. But, as sometimes happens, the event roared back to life just when organizers thought it was about to die.

The renewed vigor among planners and volunteers has meant not only a full weekend of activities, but also a first-ever march, which co-organizer Jimmie Scott hopes will draw 100 people. "We're marching to save our lives," Scott says.

The first-ever Atlanta Black Gay Pride March will be held on Monday, Sept 3., and will proceed from the State Capitol to the Martin Luther King Center. The theme of the event is "Stand Up and Represent: Black, Out and Proud."

"[Co-organizer] Anthony McWilliams had a vision or dream of about 100 black people marching," explains Eric Flavors, who is helping co-ordinate the event. "So he called the people he knew and I was one of them and we had a meeting. There was some really strong positive energy behind doing it, so we've just come from there." Flavors and McWilliams, along with a core group of 10 volunteers, are making it happen.

This marks the first time black gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have stood up for their political rights publicly as a group in Atlanta, Scott says.

"We're marching to be seen and heard," he says. "We are not invisible; we have always had a large community here in Atlanta. There's always been a significant number of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of color, specifically black folks, that live here in Atlanta. We're tired of people

➢ Continued on Page 16

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2001 runs Aug. 30 through Sept. 3 and includes a first-ever march.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

appts.

Popular Atlanta musician and out and proud lesbian Michelle Malone performs at Eddie's Attic on Friday.

friday, aug. 24

Singer and guitarist **Michelle Malone** performs at her old haunt, Eddie's Attic. Malone, who released a new CD titled "Hello Out There" this year, is a strong musician with catchy tunes—and a bit of attitude. 7 p.m., all ages show; 9:30 p.m., over 21 only. $10. **Eddie's Attic, 515 N McDonough St, Decatur. 404-377-4976.**

sunday, aug. 26

Launch party for weekly **Skyline Sundays** at the Park Tavern restaurant and bar near Piedmont Park. Powerchick Entertainment presents DJ Luvsxi spinning Miami house music. Weekly events will feature local art, charity and fun; the events benefit the Piedmont Park Conservancy. 3 p.m. until midnight. $10. **Park Tavern, 500 10th St. 404-449-7350.**

multiple engagements

InVISION, an art exhibit that acknowledges women artists and their representations of the female form, continues. **7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-284-1151.**

"Dream of a Common Language" runs in conjunction with the InVISION exhibit. The play explores the struggles of two women to be taken seriously as artists. Wed-Sat 8 p.m., Sundays 7 p.m. **7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-284-1151.**

A light, tongue-in-cheek approach to the 1968 gay classic play **"The Boys in the Band"** is playing at the Art Farm. The funny and stark drama was among the first to explore the lives of openly gay men. The original off-Broadway production played for more than three years; the cast repeated their roles for the 1971 William Friedkin film. Thru Aug 31. **Art Farm, 885 Wylie St. 404-762-1533.**

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

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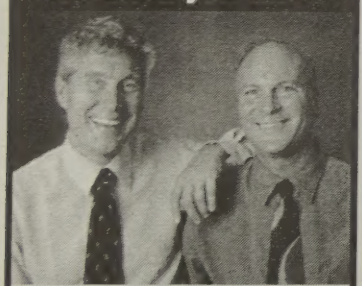

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on stage

THEATER REVIEWS

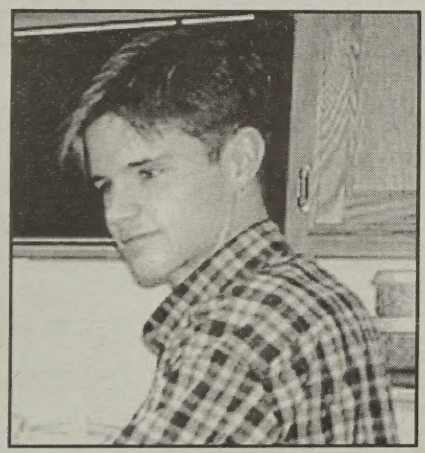
by JIM FARMER

A solid season

From Tennessee Williams to David Sedaris, the Atlanta fall season offers gay theater aplenty

While the 2001-02 season might not feature the splashy productions that have marked years past, the line-up still seems pretty solid. Here is a quick overview of some of the most interesting productions.

At the absolute top of the must-see list is Actor's Express upcoming **THE LARAMIE PROJECT.** New AE artistic director Wier Harman proved his first year that he has the goods, so this production is much-anticipated. "The Laramie Project" is the dramatization of the story of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man who was beaten to death three years ago. Also under AE consideration is **BEAUTIFUL THING,** a play based on the acclaimed gay British film.



'The Laramie Project' at Actors Express tells the story of Matthew Shepard (above), a young gay man who was beaten to death in 1998.

The cut-ups at Dad's Garage open their season in a major gay way with the premiere of **SAY YOU LOVE SATAN** by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa. It's a romantic comedy about "one man's desire to find true love in this big messed up world of ours." How messed up? His boyfriend is the son of Satan.

The Alliance faces the challenge of a Kenny-less season—artistic director Kenny Leon left after more than a decade. Susan Booth has taken over, and she will direct the company's biggest show of the year, David Auburn's Tony Award winner **PROOF.** It's the story of a young woman and her relationship with her father, a mathematical genius. Leon will return to the Alliance to direct the musical **THE WIZ.**

Beginning its campaign early is Theater in the Square. Their 20th year kicks off with George Bernard Shaw's **PYGMALION.** Also scheduled is **AMY'S VIEW**—which won Dame Judi Dench a Tony—and gay writer Oscar Wilde's **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST.**

Highlighting the 7 Stages season is a return by the highly acclaimed **FREDDIE HENDRICKS YOUTH ENSEMBLE GROUP,** then Edward Albee's Pulitzer prize-winning **A DELICATE BALANCE,** to be directed by Joseph Chaikin.

In its new home in Dunwoody, Jewish Theater of the South celebrates its seventh season with Atlanta playwright Barbara Lebow's **THE LEFT HAND RISING** and the musical **THE FISHKIN TOUCH.**

In the past, The Atlanta Broadway Series has brought some big tickets to town, such as Ann-Margret in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." That's why the 2001-2002 schedule, which includes **BLAST, THE MUSIC MAN,** and the critically reviled **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER,** is a bit underwhelming. The Broadway Series is also teaming with Theater of the Stars to bring the Rockettes' **RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** to Atlanta.

Gay writers John Gibson and Anthony Morris will debut their **PEACHTREE BATTLE** at the Peachtree Playhouse soon. The play is about a society woman whose son gets engaged to a Hooters girl.

Horizon Theater has yet to announce a schedule, but will present David Sedaris' **THE SANTALAND DIARIES** again. The Center for Puppetry Art offers its usual kids' fare, as well as **THE SPOOKY HORROR SHOW** for adults.

Soulstice Repertory revs up in February with Arthur Miller's **DEATH OF A SALESMAN** and William Inge's **BUS STOP.** A rare staging of **PEER GYNT** with Atlanta actor Jim Peck is PushPush's main show. The Georgia Shakespeare Festival will stage **JULIUS CAESAR** in the fall, while crosstown's Shakespeare Tavern is mounting **THE CRUCIBLE,** among others. Look for Alfred Uhry's **THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM** and **THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD** at Theater Gael, Tennessee Williams' **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** at ART Station, and **HARD TIMES** at Theatrical Outfit.

atlanta theater calendar

'Dinah Was,' a play about gay favorite and Queen of the Blues Dinah Washington, comes to Alliance Theater this month.

THE BOYS IN THE BAND Thru Aug 31. Landmark 1968 gay play by Mart Crowley, directed by Stephen R. Sisson. Art Farm, 835 Wylie St. 404-762-1533.

DINAH WAS Thru Sept 23. Incorporates popular songs from Dinah Washington's 20-year career as the Queen of the Blues. Alliance Theater, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-5000.

DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE Thru Sept 2. Two women struggle to be respected as artists in a sexist society. 7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave., 404-284-1151.

THE GIANT, THE BEANSTALK AND JACK! Thru Sept 16. Jack manages to outwit a giant who's not so jolly, save his mother's farm and get the gold. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3391

GINNY & LOVE LETTERS Thru Sept 2. The first play is about a man waiting for a bus; the second is a love story. Historic Canton Theatre, 171 Main St., Canton. 770-704-0755.

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS Thru Sept 15. A 47-year-old man faces a mid-life crisis and attempts to participate in the sexual revolution. Kudzu Playhouse, 608 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell. 770-594-1020.

LES PARENTS TERRIBLES (INDISCRETIONS) Aug 24-Sept 16. A tragic farce by gay poet and playwright Jean Cocteau translated from the original French by Jeremy Sams. Out of Hand Theater, Backstage Theatre at 7 Stages,1105 Euclid Ave. 404-522-6194.

PYGMALION Thru Sept 23. The upper-crust Henry Higgins sets out to make a "fair lady" out of a Cockney flower girl. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. 770-422-8369.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Thru Aug 25. Will Petruchio be able to tame his "shrew?" New American Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree St. 404-874-5299.

THE TEMPEST Thru Aug 26. Shipwreck survivors land on an enchanted isle. New American Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree St. 404-874-5299.

THE WIZARD OF OZ Thru Aug 26. The Royal Shakespeare Company's adaptation includes a seven-piece orchestra, flying witches and monkeys and original costumes and sets. 14th Street Playhouse. 404-733-5000.

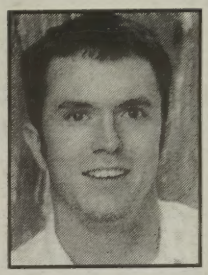
—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

To add a listing, e-mail eobriant@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 20, or fax to 404-876-2709.

out on the town

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE

by ANDY COLE



Gay Ponce seeks fountain of youth

Bars come and go along Atlanta's other gay strip

Midtown Atlanta is where you take friends from out of town to make the point that being gay in Atlanta is like being gay in any other big city. **PONCE DE LEON AVENUE** is where you take them if you are trying to show them something about being gay in the South.

It's where working girls wait for, but never get on, the No. 2 bus. Where Blondie, the revered Clermont Lounge stripper, crushes beer cans with her boobs. And where, lo and behold, there are five completely gay bars and one fairly gay coffee shop all in one mile.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Paper palm trees offer unusual ambience at the new gay bar Rico's View.

Can this be the South? You betcha. Can this be Cathy Woolard's District Six? We'll see how long.

Granted, the "Ponce as real world Atlanta" description has been wishfully nostalgic for a few years now.

The intown real estate boom of the past 10 years has left more yuppies, fewer hookers and sushi—yes, the Japanese kind—at the Kroger that area residents used to enthusiastically call "Crack Kroger" (a distinction now passed to the grocer's East Atlanta location).

The pendulum hasn't swung completely from seedy to greedy. But the opening of a new gay bar on Ponce, along with the recent closing of two others, signals the way the street's wind done gone.

RICO'S VIEW, in an upstairs space just east of the intersection with Ponce de Leon Court, is a South Beach-esque spot, offering a deck-top view of the skyline (and the City Hall East jail) through paper palm trees. On a recent Friday night, the bar, which opened this summer, attracted a racially mixed and mostly tranquil crowd.

Relatively upscale compared to the other gay bars on Ponce, meaning that the initial investment involved putting mirrors inside and comfy patio furniture outside—not buying Coors Lite and drilling a glory hole—Rico's ties the shopping center together. It is the missing cultural link between MJQ's (gay and straight) drum 'n' bass crowd one door west and the Midtown Saloon's pool tables and gay men's juke box three doors east.

The new bar is definitely in a different league from Upstairs, the gay bar previously located there, and also a stark foil to Buddy's, the gay pool hall that just closed on Ponce near Piedmont.

The loss of these bars doesn't deserve too much boo-hooing. Upstairs was decrepit. And the main attraction at Buddy's, apart from fun bartenders and patrons, was an inexplicably long restroom line.

Places like the **EAGLE** and **INNOVOX LOUNGE** do not seem in danger. Atlanta's premier leather bar, the Eagle, does well blending a hard-core edge with a friendly staff and mostly non-intimidating clientele.

Innovox, a favorite hang-out for gays in their teens and early '20s, also seems to be doing well, with steady business in its basement space in Ford Factory.

But can other gay bars in the neighborhood, like the **PHOENIX** across from the Homo Depot or **MODEL T'S**, also in Ford Factory, hang on?

These places draw neither the younger gay boys nor the HRC crowd. They are the haunts of older gay regulars, many of whom moved to Atlanta from rural areas to be out but not necessarily "Advocate" chic.

How will these fare? One hopes well. But then again, Señor Ponce de Leon didn't find the Fountain of Youth his own damn self.

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'It's time to stand up'

➢ Continued from Page 13

talking for us and speaking for us and it's time to make ourselves heard."

According to Scott, the purpose of the march is to raise awareness of issues affecting the black gay community, including gay-bashing and HIV. But there's more to it than that.

"We're marching to celebrate our lives," he explains. "So often people in the GLBT community are beat down but when you put that extra spin on that of being black and gay—we have this staunch homophobia running through our community—and it's time to stand up and say, 'I'm proud of what God made me.'"

Flavors and Scott say they will meet the goal of drawing 100 participants to the march. "I think we're going to get it, I think we're going to shock the world," Scott says. "Nobody is going to stand up for us. If we don't stand up for ourselves, who will?"

He added that everyone who supports the cause, regardless of color, is welcome to participate in the march.

With the political zeal behind the march plans, Atlanta Black Gay Pride looks set for an exciting Labor Day Weekend this year. But it was not always thus.

One of the major organizers, In the Life Atlanta, nearly cancelled its involvement for 2001 after a lackluster Pride last year. "The board last year just really got burned out and we thought it was because we didn't have enough manpower and we didn't hear enough from people to volunteer, so we did it but everybody got burned," Flavors recalls. But after ITLA sent out a press release announcing that it would serve only as a resource for hotel reservations and social events, black gay Atlantans rallied, organizers say.

Thanks to that support, a number of activities are planned. Adodi Muse, a performance ensemble, will perform at the opening ceremony on Aug. 31. Afterward, an official welcome party is planned at Studio Central. Atlanta-area authors Robin G. White and Deardria Nesbitt will read at Charis Books & More that same evening, while writer Michael Christopher signs his novels at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse. Parties at the Metro and DA Boxx are scheduled for Sept. 1. A morning worship service and afternoon cookout will be held Sept. 2.

As it looks now, Atlanta Black Gay Pride is far from burning out. Instead, it's burning bright.

INFO

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atlanta eats out

by JONATHAN LERNER

Beyond vegetarian

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The intersection of Briarcliff and Lavista is good food ground zero.

This is the location of Whole Foods, a classy natural-foods grocery, and of Quality Kosher Emporium, source of poultry with blessed, heavenly flavor.

And now it is home to a hole-in-the-wall eatery called **VEGAN WAY.**

Vegan—the "e" is long and the "g" is hard—refers to food that contains no animal products. On the spectrum of vegetarianism, that's pretty far out. Vegan food not only shuns flesh, but also animal products that might be considered renewable resources, like eggs or milk.

Vegan food is not precisely the same thing as raw food, but most of what's served at Vegan Way is uncooked. Problems of nomenclature arise. What does "Live Pie," on the daily specials board, suggest to you? Four and twenty blackbirds?

One lunchtime I enjoyed a Vegan Way dish described on the menu as a "kinder living pizza." That's in quotes because its resemblance to pizza was conceptual, at best.

First, it was chilled. Secondly, the "crust" was an inch-thick, moist layer of grain—in texture and taste, more like a vegetarian "burger" or "meat loaf."

It was spread with tomato sauce—there's the reference to pizza, I guess—and topped with avocado, spinach and a tahini dressing. Beside it was a salad with a creamy (but surely cream-less) roasted garlic and tomato dressing.

Pizza it was not. But it was delicious, filling, brimming with nutrition and a bargain at $7.

So the Trend Spotter and I returned another day.

TS had the soup, a comfortingly thick and mild white bean. He followed it with a "slaw dog." This smoky vegetarian frank could have fooled any carnivore. His only complaint was that there was too much soft whole-wheat bun surrounding it.

My choices this time were not as good. The avocado platter was a bed of unexciting lettuce in too-large pieces, impossible to cut with the plastic flatware. There were some cherry tomatoes, including one that was half-rotten, and slices of avocado.

The avocado had been coated with something very salty and peppery, like jerk seasoning. The dressing this day was a mild carrot-tahini.

My other choice was a "nut meat platter," another bed of difficult lettuce with three rolls of nori—the seaweed used to wrap sushi—filled with a moist, hummus-like ground nut mixture.

Maybe because there were too many layers of it, the nori was nearly impossible to bite through, and the nut mixture was inedibly salty.

Vegan Way is uneven, and the atmosphere vibrates slightly with the bliss of the vegan true believer, but it is a welcome addition to the neighborhood's fast-food scene.

food file

Vegan Way

1658 Lavista Road
404-325-4343

Food: 🍽🍽🍽
Service: 🍽🍽
Comfort & Aesthetics: 🍽🍽
Value: 🍽🍽🍽🍽
Scene: 🍽🍽

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Hillside Chapel & Truth Center

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Announcements

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Several units in City of Decatur & Candler Park. Walk to restaurants & shops. Studio 1/2/3 bedrooms. $750-$1400 month. Call 404-231-1473 for details.

Two bedroom townhouse I-85 Shallowford/Georgetown community. Private courtyard. Green and quite. Laundry next door. Olympic pool.$860.00 mo. 706-482-2225.

VA-Hi 3BR/1.5 BA on beautiful Orme Park. Lower level of duplex, living/room, w/fireplace, dining/room, eat in kitchen, loads of character. W/D hookup. $1500 mo. Call 404-892-5588. Avail 9/15

ARTIST STUDIO FOR RENT: Working studio space, creative environment, downtown Decatur. $225/month. 404-378-9011.

CONDOS/HOMES FOR RENT

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HIGHRISE
CUSTOM 2BR/2BA.
Buckhead Home 3BR/2BA
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GRANT PARK

Apartment in quite private residence in historic Grant Park. LR/BR/BA kitchen all appliances. Central heat/air, carpeted, tiled private entry & bath close to downtown/midtown. Safe secure environment. All utilities included. $750 mo. 404-355-9528.

Real Estate For Rent-APTS.

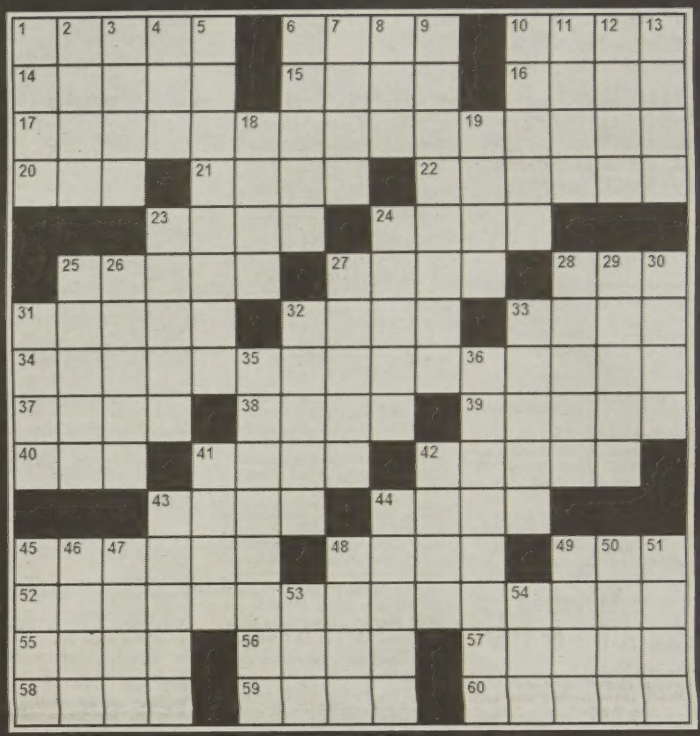
VA-HIGHLANDS. Luxury 2BR/ 1.5BA renovated 20's Townhouse, living room, den, 2/fireplaces, C/H/A, W/D, Gourmet kitchen, off-street parking, fenced yard, alarm $1490/mo. No pets. 404-634-0151.

EMORY/DECATUR

Large Luxury 3BR/2.5BA, fireplace, C/H/A, double garage, attic storage, deck, W/D, quiet street. $1395/mo. No pets. Available Sept. 404-634-0151.

➢ Continued on Page 20

Q Puzzle



'Start Out'

Across

1 Edna and Judi Dench
6 On ___ (without assurance)
10 Make chocolate milk, e.g.
14 Valuable violin
15 Refrain from using the tongue
16 Top-flight
17 "The Boys in the Band", e.g.?
20 Fairy tale, so to speak
21 Bear locales
22 Looked like a chicken hawk
23 Lie alongside
24 Gets sum
25 Charles who could make you a man
27 Seduce
28 Log Cabin org.
31 Poet Minnie Bruce
32 It comes on the beach
33 Hilary Swank's husband Chad
34 Tribe of one of the Village People?
37 Nile biters
38 Contends
39 I of I/O
40 " ___ and Sympathy"
41 Asks from one's knees
42 " ___ into Thy Narrow Bed" (lesbian pulp novel)
43 "Our ___" (movie about AIDS)
44 Coral honky fetish
45 Mapplethorpe, for short
48 Will portrayer
49 Porter's "___ Out of Town"
52 Coming out?
55 Panache
56 Rupert Everett's "___ Life"
57 Its monitors show Windy City times
58 Go down
59 Hawk, but not chicken hawk
60 Gay Hollywood gossiphound San Vicente

Down

1 Oompa Loompa creator
2 Mine, to Verlaine
3 Auntie disestablishmentarian?
4 Loc. of "Saving Ryan's Privates"
5 Bottom therapy
6 What Van Sant did to film
7 "Coming outfit" and others
8 Gaydar, for example
9 Hans Christian Andersen's audience
10 Gorges
11 Madonna's "Blonde Ambition," e.g.
12 About, in memos
13 Robert of "The Brady Bunch"
18 Debtor's letters
19 Sign away
23 Some opera queens
24 German autos
25 Got out of bed
26 Florida gay film festival city
27 "These are a few of my favorite things"
28 Freak out
29 Confess
30 Irksome insect
31 Excellent, in slang
32 Faggots are made of them
33 Janis Ian's "Between the ___"
35 Lesbian chasers?
36 Joel Schumacher, for one
41 Bust alternative
42 Hair style
43 Sharon of "If These Walls Could Talk 2"
44 Gay ogler
45 "That was close!"
46 "Hi" to Ricky Martin
47 Male mating call?
48 Series terminal
49 U.S. Pacific territory
50 To be in Rimbaud's arms
51 Huxtable kid on TV
53 Name divider
54 R on fraternity row

Answers on Page 20

atlanta classifieds

➢ Continued from Page 19

NORTHLAKE/BRIARCLIFF 10 min. midtown 3BR/2BA duplex, paid cable/garbage, no pets/smoking. 1 year, $1295/mo. Call Wayne 404-273-5229.

Real Estate for Rent-Condos

MIDTOWN

Renaissance Park Condo-Fabulous 1BR/1BA, tile/carpet, FP, WD, patio w/hot tub, gated pool community. Close to new shopping/groc store. No pets/smokers Avail 9/1. $950. mo. 404-888-0699

BUCKHEAD

The Terraces at Peachtree 1BR/1BA new hardwood floors, kitchen, appliances, and W/D. Reserved covered parking, pool and fitness room. $950/month. Application & credit necessary. 404-876-0000.

DRUID HILLS/EMORY CONDO. Newly renovated 3BR/2.5BA near Fernbank. All amenities. $2000 per mo. Call 404-377-1320.

Real Estate For Rent-House

ANSLEY PARK

Charming 3BR/2BA bungalow, hardwood floors, 9ft. ceilings, fireplace, private back patio, fenced yard. 404-733-6885. $2100/mo. + deposit.

GRANT PARK

1902 Victorian 3BR/2BA house near Kelly's grocery and park. Hardwood floors, 3 decorative fireplaces, security, CHAC, wrap around front porch, deck, fenced yard. Pets ok $1650.00 mo + sec. 404-733-6885.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS

Brand new never lived in. 3BR/2.5BA plus office. Very private master, gourmet kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors, ceiling fans, wonderful porch, fenced yard, 2 car garage. $2500 mo. 404-266-2789.

City of Decatur: Wonderful old brick bungalow on fenced, treed lot in secure Winona Park. 2BR/1BA, 2 bonus rooms, hardwoods, fireplace. $1100.00 mo. Steve (W) 770-395-0140 (H) 770-399-7799.

'Family Friendly', Emory/VaHi neighborhood. 2BR/1BA W/D, all appliances, hardwoods, AC, large deck, fenced yard. Pets ok. 404-636-0324.

GRANT PARK

3BR/2BA living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 decks, off street parking. One block from park. $1400 mo. 404-522-2817.

NORTHLAKE/BRIARCLIFF 10 min.midtown 3BR/2BA duplex paid cable/garbage, No Pets/Smoking. 1yr $1295 mo. Call Wayne 404-273-5229.

Real Estate For Sale

DRUID HILLS ANNEX

HILLTOP CHARMER! 2BR/1BA brick bungalow on 3/4 acre within walking distance of VA/HI and Morningside shops and restaurants. Hardwoods, fireplace, off street parking. Low Dekalb taxes. $335,000. Call Roberta Clare, 14 West Realtors 404-245-0765.

MIDTOWN CONDO

Designer 2 story condo across from Piedmont Park! 2BR/1BA with 2 deeded parking spaces, extra storage, hardwoods and decorators touch! $219,900. Call Roberta Clare 14 West Realtors 404-245-0765.

NEW ORLEANS LA

*MARIGNY CONDO REDUCED, slick 1BR/1.5 BA, parking, pool, $114,900 seller motivated!
*MINT BYWATER DUPLEX $295,000-owner's unit 2658 sq ft.,LR, DR, Den, libr, kit, brkfst rm, 2BR SUITES.. rental 1363 sq.ft. w/2BR/2BA. Nice Yard!...
*EXQUISITE 3 LEVEL MARIGNY SINGLE- 1 block from Quarter, den, LR, DR,K,slate/pine floors. 3 gas f/p's, balcony & courtyard...very motivated seller-$425,000.
*2 STORY GREEK REVIVAL-Bywater single, 3032 sq.ft. 3BR/2BA, parking, balconies, manicured corner lot. $315,000.
*PRIME MARIGNY TRIANGLE SINGLE-1 block to Quarter, 3BR/2.5BA, 3016 sq.ft. front & side galleries-$350,000.
LANE LACOY, REALTOR, LATTER & BLUM REALTORS, INC. 504-948-3011

BUCKHEAD

Sophiscated Townhome near Chastain!! Gourmet kitchen, huge master ste, 4BR/3.5BA, finish lower level. Private courtyard. Perfect roommate plan. Only $329,900!!. Alec Williams Coldwell Banker/Buckhead Broker. 404-705-1666

TUCKER/ NORTHLAKE

Diverse, friendly neighborhood. All brick 4BR/2.5BA. Completely repainted with nice yard, fenced in back. Ideal for couples. $209,900. 770-492-1380.

DECATUR

3BR/1.5 brick ranch, gas fireplace, hardwoods, large fenced yard. Must see inside, will love ! $207,800 By Owner 404-676-1255. OPEN SUN 2-5 Agents protected.

EAST POINT BARGAIN, excellent neighborhood 2BR/1BA big attic, garage, new roof, HBAC. Worth $100,000 after cosmetics. Will sell for first $75,500. 404-378-7571

CAPITOL VIEW

Cute renovated home, just steps from Perkerson Park. Porch, deck, hardwoods, lots of windows. 3BR/2BA. $175,500 with $4000 decorator allowance. Mel Snow Prudential Intown 404-388-9922.

TUCKER NORTHLAKE

Booming area. Minutes from midtown Emory/Decatur. Beautiful brick ranch 4BR/2BA, daylight basement, many updates. $209,000. You will love it! OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 770-414-1977 or 404-325-9460.Re/Max/Atl

DECATUR BEAUTY

Renovated 4/2, hardwoods, spacious rooms, corian, stainless steel, huge fenced yard, sunroom/office, patio. $239k. Patrick Gilvin, Synergy Realty. 678-560-3979.

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HI-RISE CONDOS

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Jefferson Park: Charming 1940's 2BR/1BA, breakfast room, office, large deck. $145k. Joan Coldwell Banker RMR 770-840-9933.

DECATUR

Downtown historic Decatur condominiums 2BR/2BA. Hardwoods stainless steel appliances, cherry cabinetry, large porch, off street parking, high ceilings. $239,900. 404-275-0438.

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BEACH HOMES

Looking for the perfect vacation or retirement home/condo? Consider the beach communities of Seaside, Seagrove and Grayton Beach, Florida. White sand, emerald water, old Florida cottages and great shopping! Call Chris Cash at 1-800-994-5030 or email: cash@30Arealty.com.

Q Puzzle solution

Answers to puzzle on Page 19

O	E	M	O	R	■	L	L	E	S	■	E	N	A	W
E	R	A	H	O	■	L	A	E	R	■	N	A	L	E
H	T	U	R	T	F	O	T	N	E	M	O	M	O	H
T	E	G	■	C	I	R	E	■	G	O	T	O	H	P
■	■	■	S	E	O	T	■	S	N	O	S	■	■	■
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T	U	P	N	I	■	S	E	I	V	■	S	P	S	A
S	N	A	I	D	N	I	K	W	A	H	O	M	O	H
E	W	O	L	■	E	D	I	T	■	T	A	T	R	P
P	O	G	■	E	R	U	L	■	S	A	T	L	T	A	■
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R	I	T	S	■	C	E	P	S	■	S	E	M	A	D

southern voice

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Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 15

TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 15. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment–Seeking
___ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment–Full Time
___ Employment–Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets–For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate–For Rent
___ Real Estate–For Sale
___ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 (ATL) or 504-821-9041 (NEW ORL) for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.
Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues
Total: $_____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.
Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words _____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues
Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

Real Estate-Wanted to Buy

WE BUY HOUSES

Fast, friendly, private. Call today 404-275-2848. 404-275-2848.

Roommates

Roommate Wanted: GWM seeking roommate for spacious 3BR/2.5BA house in Tucker near 85/285 (20 min from town). Living room, family room, dining room, fireplace, garage. Must be responsible and non-smoking. $600.00 + 1/2 utilities. 770-414-7297.

Gwinnett Place region: 2M seek nonsmoking, drug-free, responsible house mate to share 3BR/3BA townhouse, only cat ok. W/D, cable, phone line, garage, $350 mo.$250.deposit. 770-935-5694.

INMAN PARK

Prof. GWM seeks responsible roommate to share 2BR/2.5BA house. Private bath, garage, hardwoods, on secure street. 2 cats/outside smokers ok. $625 mo + 1/2 utilities + deposit. 404-377-7912.

ORMEWOOD/ E.ATLANTA

GWM to share large beautifully restored 2BR/1BA home. Fully furnished except BR. No drugs/smoking. Great neighborhood. $400 + 1/2 utilities Rex 404-627-6563.

Emory/Midtown area. GWM couple seeks roommate to share 3BR/2BA house. W/D, hot tub, pool, etc: Must like pets. $550.00 mo plus deposit. Call 404-748-4142.

Lesbian looking for roommate for cute 3/BR house in Lakewood-1120 Oak Knoll Terrace $350/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Must like smokers and dogs.(I have 2). Call Julie 404-627-1059

GWM looking for clean, responsible, non-smoker to share very nice townhouse. Close to Buckhead area. $450.00 mo/plus utilities. No Pets. 404-634-7563.

Sylvan Hills, Straight but cool roommate looking for 1/2 roommates for intown 4BR 1910 house, 4 fireplaces, 2 porches, CH/A. $375.00 1/3 utilities. 404-755-8457.

GWF seeking responsible roommate in Dunwoody. Avail NOW! Near MARTA- $455.mo + 1/2 utilities. 678-587-9576.

GWF looking for roommate to share 3BR/2BA home near Marietta. No pets non-smoker please. 770-366-3725.

GRANT PARK

GWM looking for considerate, professional, fun, and responsible roommate to share a great Victorian 3BR/2BA home. $700/mo. plus deposit and 1/2 utilities. Mature dog, will consider other pets. Avail Oct.1st. Call Keith at 404-627-9002

GWF seeking M/F to share fabulous new home nestled between East Lake/Atlanta. 4BR/3BA, alll new, easy access to hwy, everything! Your space would include 2 rooms, one is an oversized room with fireplace, private bath, 4 closets, full access to rest of home. Off street parking. I am looking for someone who is clean and who isn't looking to be entertained. I live a busy life. Don't get me wrong, friends are great, just don't expect me to hang out all the time. Someone who has a life would be ideal! $650.00 mo/plus one month deposit, references. No pets or drama. If this is you, call me 404-245-9591, or pagegirl32@aol.com

GRANT PARK

Private furnished room and bath, open minded, clean, no pets, $500.mo $1000 deposit, share utilities, need references. Kirk 404-524-1510.

Buckhead/ Piedmont Hospital Area. GWPM seeks roommate to share fully furnished and spacious 2BR/2BA apartment. No pets, nonsmokers only. $ 500.00 + deposit. Avail NOW! References required. 404-350-0739.

Buckhead -seeks GWM, responsible, clean, nonsmoker, fitness-minded, 3/2 home, hot tub, private patio, share bath. $450/month. Ron 404-788-0572 pager.

Buford Hwy, 2BR/2BA apt. GM seeks same to share. $450.00 per month. Great location. Call for additional information/appointment. 404-471-1750.

Buckhead Location GWM seeks same to share 2BR/1BA. $395.00 1/2 utilities. Contact cell 404-358-3261 or home 404-240-7300.

Decatur/Covington Hwy. Basement in-law suite with private entrance in nice quite neighborhood. Private kitchen, bath, large common room, W/D and large backyard. 1.3 miles from Kensington MARTA station, 10 min. from downtown Decatur. Looking for responsible, clean, and respectful roommate. Pets negotiable.$500/month + 1/4 utilities. Call Eric or Marc 404-288-8337.

MORNINGSIDE/Va.Highlands-GWM seeks responsible roommmate to share a large newly renovated home. House features a pool, hot tub, and home theater. $600/mo includes utilities & maid service 404-873-1000.

Decatur/Avondale Estates: Two women seek third to share 3BR/2BA house. $415/mo plus utilities. Contact 404-288-9419.

Norcross/Lilburn: GWPF seeks GWPF/M for roommate. 2-story house, carport, big yard, 3BR/2BA. Near I-85, mall and golf driving range. No pets/smokers/drugs. $475.00 1/2 utilities. $200 deposit. References checked. 770-921-1905 or mlmccrary@fiamg.net

L5P/Candler Park: Seek responsible, dependable, quiet lesbian housemate. C/H/A, W/D, hardwood floors, MARTA. Have dog. $400mo, 1/2 utilities, deposit. 404-522-5623.

1 room for rent in private house on MARTA. $450 includes all utilities. W/D, 10 minutes to midtown, Mercer University Drive. Call 770-934-8014.

GM levi-leather household seek responsible GWM/GBM to share 4BR/2.5BA. Fully furnished house with 2BR available (1 unfurnished & 1 furnished.) Quite NE area great 85/285 access parking, W/D, fireplace, hot tub, full use of house and play space. No tobacco. All utilities including cable & DSL service, except your phone: $400/420mo. Info at www.fuzzyandme.com/rent or call 770-492-1343.

GWM seeks same: 2BR/2BA W/D and A/C. NE plaza area. 1/2 rent plus utilities. Security deposit required. Smoker preferred. Bedroom unfurnished. 678-362-6972 leave message.

Marietta: Close to freeways. Seeking airline professional or college student to share 3BR/2BA home. 770-956-7602 or lookingroommate@aol.com

Rooms For Rent

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

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NEW ORLEANS

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Volunteers

Volunteer facilitator

Needed for HIV Support Group. Lead AIDS Survival Projects's Monday Night Positively Living Support Group. Each Monday 7:30-9:30pm. The group is open to Men & Women who are living w/HIV. Prefer that the facilitator has training in social work, psychology, or sociology. Group exp. preferred. Any Interested persons should call Terri Wilder at 404-874-7926 ext 13.

Designated drivers

DESIGNATED DRIVERS ASSOC of ATLANTA is looking for individuals, businesses and social groups to assist in our efforts to provide Volunteer Team Drivers to take impaired individuals and their car home for FREE! Our sponsors include but are not limited to bars, restaurants, nightclubs and corporate events. Our drivers work in teams of 2 and each driver is issued a 2-way radio so you are never alone! Although this is a Volunteer Opportunity many of our volunteers received $$TIPS$$. Currently, volunteers are needed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 10pm to 4am to provide safe rides home for impaired drivers and their cars. Ongoing. Please call Chris Napty Director of Volunteers and Fund raising at 404-888-0887 ext 104.

Help a child

AID Atlanta is looking for responsible adults who have one morning a week available to volunteer in the playroom at the Grady Ponce de Leon Center. You would be caring for HIV-infected and affected children 10 years and younger. For more information please call Bob Ford 404-870-7741.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES is seeking volunteers for the following areas: special events, bar & club outreach, clerical support, house monitor, food pantry, clothing closet, fund raising, yard maintenance, group facilitation, and education. Volunteer training available monthly. Please contact Jala at 404-753-2900, ext 17.

Volunteer facilitator

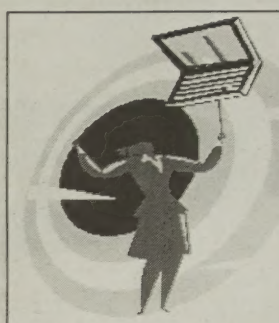
Help us serve your community!! The center is seeking a volunteer facilitator to lead our Women's group (for lesbians and bisexual women) and GLBT Parents Groups. Master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling or other mental health related field preferred, but not required. Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc.org.

FOOD NOT BOMBS

Volunteers needed to help prepare and serve meals for the homeless and needy. Founded in Boston in 1981, 140 locations nationwide and abroad, serving 3 times weekly. Financial Aid Welcomed! To volunteer, call Bob Darby at 404-622-5859.

The south metro youth council for the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers/youth council members for varied activities. We have a calender of events for the 2001 term. Please call 770-506-4233 for info.

The Ga. Council on Child Abuse is a statewide, non-profit, child abuse prevention agency. Volunteers are needed in a variety of opportunities. For more information on volunteering please call 404-870-6573.



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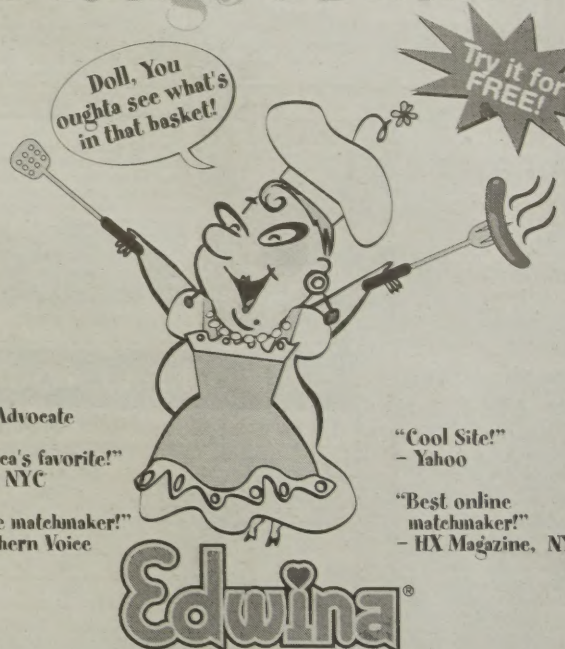

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Men Seeking Men

GAINESVILLE
SWM, 30, 6', 170lbs, blond/blue, enjoys photography, videos, outdoors, country music. Seeking male under 30, for dating. Mount Airy ☎1880

HUNGRY FOR BIG BICEPS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 37, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks massive GWM, body builder for friendship, cuddling and muscle worship. Show those muscles off to your number one fan. Atlanta ☎4939

ROMANTIC ADVENTURE
Handsome, outgoing, open-minded, masculine GBM, 31, 5'11", 220lbs, seeks well-rounded, down-to-earth, fearless SM, 25-50, race unimportant, for friendship and monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎5030

SOMETHING DIFFERENT
SM, 6', 200lbs, black/blue, likes sports, walks, biking, camping, reading, movies. Seeking quiet, easygoing man, for friendship first, maybe more. Macon ☎4795

SPORTS-MINDED
SWM, 33, 5'9", 175lbs, blue eyes, crew-cut, goatee, loves sports, movies, theater. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing, caring, stocky, sincere, up-front guy for possible relationship. Lawrenceville ☎4997

SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35-55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

LOOKING FOR THE ONE
GWM, 25, 5'9", 150lbs, tan and smooth, generally a bottom, looking for a WM, 25-40, who is adventurous yet serious at the same time, for possible LTR. Decatur ☎4859

SEEKING QUALITY GUY
GWM, 36, 6'2", 190lbs, brown/brown, seeks similar GWM, 25-45, who enjoys movies, outdoors, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Sugar Hill ☎4260

SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

FUNNY, ATTRACTIVE...
fit male, 6', 175lbs, blond/green, enjoys travel, working out, and his two dogs. Seeking sincere, honest, funny guy. Atlanta ☎4349

SEEKING SAME
Easygoing, honest, romantic guy, 31, 5'7", 155lbs, N/Drugs, seeks same in PM, under 35, who enjoys travel. Atlanta ☎5082

DARK AND SEXY
SBM, 28, 5'11", 180lbs, muscular build, seeks GM for casual dating, possible LTR. Serious inquiries only. Atlanta ☎5025

SEEKING DAD
GWM, 30, seeks in-shape, gay dad, 40-55, for discreet meetings, satisfaction guaranteed. Atlanta ☎5003

MUSCLE GUY SEEKS SAME
SM, 5'10", 200lbs, muscular, tan, smooth body, likes working out, yard work, travel, the beach, the outdoors. Seeking SM for fun, dating, possible relationship. Norcross ☎4996

MUSCLE JOCK SEEKS DAD
Shy, submissive SWM, 28, 6'2", 230lbs, seeks fun-loving, easygoing, financially secure GWM, 45+, for monogamous LTR. Atlanta ☎4659

SCORPIO
Very cute SM, 20, 6', 150lbs, HiV-, dark blonde/hazel, bottom, seeks older, financially stable, attractive, muscular GWM in the Atlanta area, for possible LTR. ☎5063

COMPANIONSHIP
Honest, sincere GBM, 33, HIV+, seeks secure GBM for friendship first, possible committed, long-term relationship. Atlanta ☎4042

SEEKING LATINO
Attractive WM, great shape, healthy, seeks attractive, masculine SHM, 25-35, N/S, N/Drugs, for friendship, LTR. Atlanta ☎5067

HUSKY BEAR
GWPM, youthful 40s, 5'11", brown hair, moustache, beard, seeks same. Must be honest and open to possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5062

Been Glanced?

ANGELA
We spoke a few times in between spines. If you caught my clue, and would like to rendezvous, just let me know and we can go to a show! Atlanta ☎5103

ANSLEY KROVER 8/13/01
Crowded. Monday evening. You: BM, glasses with flowered plant only. Me: WM, glasses asked if you wanted to go ahead of me. You said no. Dinner? Atlanta ☎5075

LENNOX TOWERS-AUG 6
ME: Waiting for stop light, in silver mazda. You: tall, slender BM in tan sweater and slacks. Ran in front of my car, looked, looked again, looked again, lets talk! Atlanta ☎5040

KROGER IN DECATUR
Late July after work. You: brown striped skirt suit, brunette, chin-length hair, driving a Saturn. Wanted to talk to you, was too shy. Would like to hear from you. Decatur ☎5004

SEEKING ROGER
WM, 6', 190lbs, muscular, attractive, seeks BM, around 6', 200lbs+, attractive, muscular, seen at Blake's. Atlanta ☎4879

7/30 CLAIRE MOUNT LOUNGE
You: hot girl with friends, dark hair black shirt. Me: on stage I am gay and interested, I played "butterfly" you gave me butterflies, would love to meet. Atlanta ☎5002

BANK OF AMERICA/CONCOURSE
You: cute blond, Abercrombie shirt, blue BMW, Cobb Co. plate. Me: dark-haired, green Saturn. You turned left, I turned right. You seemed interested. Me too. Call me. Atlanta ☎4965

PUBLIX ON PIEDMONT 7/9
You: WM, blond, blue/white striped shirt, stunning blue eyes. Me: WM, brown hair, goatee, orange shirt. Can I cook you dinner? Atlanta ☎4897

DECATUR YMCA
Three-five years ago: Auburn fan, black car/tiger tags front and back. Me: older man who ran from you. Now sorry that I did. Please let me hear from you. Decatur ☎4832

MIKE
I spoke to you and friend at Phillips Arena, then spoke to you leaving back street. Me; Kevin, tall, wish I had asked you to share my cab, date? Atlanta ☎4833

ROASTERS ON LENOX 6/15
You: Dark hair, red plaid shirt, with friends, cute, cute, cute! Me: Green t-shirt, blue plaid shirt, with friend. Let's meet for dinner (just the two of us). Atlanta ☎4836

6/23, PETSMART ON PONCE
You: BM, built, red cap/shirt/shorts, with another guy. Me: WM, blond, t-shirt, navy jeans. We were petting the animals for adoption out front. Let's meet. Decatur ☎4830

SEEKING NEW FRIEND
Male, 30, 6'3", 210lbs, Atlanta area, enjoys tennis, beaches, theater, art. Seeking a male to spend time with, for friendship, possibly more. ☎4825

QUALITY GUY SEEKS SAME
All-American type guy, 6'2", 180lbs, dark/dark, seeks a male for casual dating or friendship. Atlanta ☎4840

POLICE OR UNIFORM
GWM, 6'2", 225lbs, flat top, gym hard, seeks a policeman or uniform freak for dating/relationship. Villa Rica ☎4960

BOTTOM'S UP!
GWM, early 30's, 5'7", 135lbs, dark/hazel, top-only, enjoys movies, cooking, watching tv. Seeking SWM, 30-45, bottom, for dating, possible LTR. Tucker ☎4828

HARD-WORKING, CARING
BPM, HIV+, 5'10", 178lbs, 40s, enjoys exercise, dining in and out, cozy evenings, and more. Seeking similar, sincere male, any race, possible LTR. Dunwoody area. ☎4019

SEEKING LTR
Attractive, healthy GBM, 37, 5'9", 155lbs, HIV+, seeks mature, stable SM for friendship and LTR. Atlanta ☎4787

GBM, HIV+,...
5'9", 155lbs, outgoing and honest, seeks romance and adventure with a quality man. You must be GWM, 33-40, honest, and not afraid of an LTR and monogamy. East Point ☎4900

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40 to 60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

HEART-ON
Come on and try this HIV+ GWM, 47, 5'11", 190lbs, toned build, shaved head, blue eyes, blond goatee, honest, affectionate, sexual, enjoys movies, hiking, dining out, aerobics. Let's talk. Atlanta ☎4775

CUTE, SWEET BOTTOM
Attractive SBM, 5'5", 148lbs, muscular build, light brown complexion, enjoys exercise, reading, dining out. Seeking aggressive top, for possible monogamous LTR. Race/age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4865

SOUTHSIDE MAN
Good-looking GWM, 63 years young, 6', 175lbs, enjoys sports, arts, dining out, fitness. Seeking good-looking GM, 45-60, preferably Hispanic, in good shape, for dating, possible LTR. South side. Stockbridge. ☎4946

SENSITIVE LIBRA
Stable, mature GWM 39, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, blue jeans t-shirt and boots type, blue-collar, work-aholic, seeks monogamous male 35-45, no games. Dating friends, possible LTR ☎5001

IVORY SEEKS EBONY
GWM, 48, 6'1", 180lbs, HIV+, healthy, easygoing, loves to travel, walks in the park, relaxing at home, dining out. Seeking GBM, 35-50, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5073

SEEKING BODY BUILDER
Muscular GWM, 41, 5'7", 150lbs, with slim, muscular build, enjoys working out, outdoors, beaches, cultural events. Seeking large-chested body builder, over 35, for dating. Atlanta ☎4936

MILITARY MAN
Greek, Italian SM, 22, 6', 170lbs, brown/brown, athletic build, enjoys hanging out, working out, running. Seeking attractive W/HM. Duluth ☎4990

MEET INTERESTING GUYS
Would you like to meet men age 18-?? in a well lit smoke free environment? Don't like the bar scene or games? Come to the Bachelor party. Call me. Atlanta ☎5041

WARM HEARTED
Athletic, hard bodied, very healthy GWM, 38, 6'1", brown/blue, HIV+, with many different interests, extremely passionate. Seeking courtship with like minded. Atlanta ☎3930

SEEKING SPECIAL SOMEONE
Attractive, healthy SBM, 35, HIV+, N/S, social drinker, slender build, seeks down-to-earth, sincere SM, HIV+, not into mind games or club scene. Atlanta ☎4932

MAINSTREAM GUY
Masculine SWM, 41, 5'9", 165lbs, athletic, handsome, enjoys sports, movies, politics, outdoors, travel. Seeking same, 30-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5011

ALL FOR YOU
Muscular, masculine BM, 28, model looks, great personality, seeks honest, masculine, fit, older WM for fun and casual dating. Atlanta ☎5072

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

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SEEKING A FRIEND
GWM, 40, 6', 210lbs, blond/brown, enjoys conversation, outdoors, sports, movies, music, reading. Seeking easy-going GM for friendship, possible LTR. Alma ☎5015

KINDRED SPIRIT
Attractive, masculine, successful, secure, romantic GWM, 40-something, top, seeks attractive, younger relationship GWM, bottom, to adore. Serious only. Atlanta ☎4093

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED?
So am I! Let's talk! Honest, thoughtful, sincere GWM, 44, 6'3", 195lbs, N/S, sweet disposition, non-scene, seeks same to take chance on dating with possibility of relationship. Atlanta ☎4658

YOU WON'T FIND THIS 1...
in bars. Healthy, HIV+, very loving Italian male, 48, 5'7", stocky but not fat, with home in urban Atlanta, seeks HIV+ male, 18-35. ☎4964

HIV+ BLACK MALE
SBM, 45, 6', 198lbs, Native American descent, healthy HIV+, seeks healthy HIV+ SB/HM, for possible monogamous relationship. Barnesville ☎3294

SINGLE BARE BOTTOM DAD,
6'3", 220lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, seeks slim, fun-loving, spiritual, top/versatile single GWM, 33-45, non-bar crawler, for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4829

ROMANCE AND LOVE
GHM, 49, 5'11", 183lbs, seeks honest, romantic, sincere guy, for possible LTR. Age/race unimportant. North Atlanta ☎4171

SEEKING FRIEND/LOVER
Secure GBM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs, D/D-free, enjoys sports and quiet times at home. Seeking similar, attractive, masculine man, 35+, for fun times. Roswell ☎4937

FUN GUY
Light-hearted, sensitive WPM, 6'2", 185lbs, brown/brown, loves reading, movies. Seeking upbeat, down-to-earth, spiritual guy for casual dating. Atlanta ☎3538

SEEKING COMPANION
SBM, 50, 6'1", 195lbs, masculine, enjoys movies, theater, sports, travel, reading, live music. Seeking honest, down-to-earth SM for casual dating and friendship first. ☎4858

FIRST TIME
Closing ceremonies, 6-24, would like to meet and have coffee, you with blacked framed glasses, was drinking bottled beer with two guys and two girls. Atlanta ☎4567

SEEKING MONOGAMOUS LTR
GWM, 55, 6'6", 195lbs, sandy/blue, enjoys dining out, movies, and travel. Seeking GB/H/A or Native-American male. Stone Mountain ☎4938

RUGGED AND SENSITIVE
Creative, artistic SM, 46, 5'9", dark/hazel, medium build, enjoys working out, theater, plays, movies, music. Seeking outgoing, stable, fun male, social drinker. Atlanta ☎3975

ARE YOU HUSKY?
WM, 54, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear, bottom, seeks husky/chubby, sincere guy for fun, friendship, and possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4735

WM SEEKS BM
Attractive, unique male, 39, 6'1", 195lbs, seeks same in secure, diverse, open-minded top BM. Atlanta ☎4085

TOGETHER FOREVER
Gentle WM, 50, 6', 250lbs, brown/brown, enjoys music, dining, travel, the coast, dancing. Seeking SF. Mount Airy ☎4977

'S WONDERFUL
GWPF, cute, confident, fun-loving, not into bars, seeks GWPF, femme to soft butch, 35-50, N/S, N/D, for friendship maybe more? Love quiet evenings, conversation, theater, golf, dining out. Interested? Tucker ☎5050

BEAUTIFUL GWF
GWF, 31, 5'9", 140lbs, brown/brown, very feminine, 14 year-old daughter, likes movies, walks in the park, Nascar. Seeking someone for fun, travel, quiet times, possible LTR. Hampton ☎4797

NEWLY OUT & SINGLE
Intelligent, attractive GWF, 36, brown/blue, fem/soft butch, enjoys movies, books, music, dancing, quiet evenings, rainy nights. Seeking butch GWF, N/S, N/Drugs, with similar interests, for friendship first possible LTR. Clermont ☎4896

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Intelligent WPF, 35, 5'7", 135lbs, seeks fun-loving, honest, secure WPF, 30-something to share good times, art events, concerts, dinners, and romance. N/S, N/Drugs. Atlanta ☎4966

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Just Friends

INTELLIGENT, CARING...
and fun. SWJF, 21, enjoys art, music, movies, books, dancing, and animals. Seeking educated SF, 21-30, N/S, for friendship. Atlanta ☎5084

SEEKING SPECIAL FEMME
Woman, 43, 5'7", 130lbs, brown/green, enjoys movies, cards, fishing, and traveling. Seeking honest femme woman who likes to be treated like a lady. Atlanta ☎5069

HOLLER AT ME, GIRL
Deep, dark chocolate female, 5'10", 195lbs, athletic build, jet black/brown eyes, enjoys sports, reading, and shopping. Seeking femme, rambunctious, outgoing woman. Stone Mountain ☎5071

MID 30S AND EARLY 40S
GWM couple, seeks down-to-earth GWM or GWF for friendship only. Enjoys dining out, movies, weekend travel. Not into bar scene, N/Drugs, and N/S. Lawrenceville ☎4320

NEED A FRIEND?
GWF, 48, enjoys outdoors, dining, intelligent conversation. Seeking GWF, 36+, for friendship. Covington ☎3956

WE KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE!
Professional GWF couple seeks GWFs (or other couples) for friendship. Enjoy movies, dining out, board games, nature, and much more! Not into bar scene. N/S, N/D, N/Drugs. Lithia Springs ☎5039

I LOVE WOMEN
SF, 22, loves picnics in the park, walks in the dark, movies, dinner. If this sounds interesting, call me. Age/race/size unimportant. Atlanta ☎4728

WAITING FOR YOU
Brown-complected, broad-minded SBF, 28, 5', 120lbs, enjoys good music, good food, travel, shopping, reading, park walks, beach, candlelight dinners, tv. Seeking responsible, independent, loving, caring, adventurous, feminine woman. Atlanta ☎4949

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
SWF, 37, N/Drugs, feminine, spiritual, appreciates butch women, loves the outdoors, music. Seeking trustworthy, stable women for friendship. Talking Rock ☎4883

DOUGLASVILLE
Handsome WM, 5'11", 205lbs, blue eyes, all-over tan, works out five days a week, seeks other gym types that like to sunbathe and go to the beach. Douglasville ☎4857

Bisexuals

GIVE ME A CALL
Attractive GWPF, mid 40s, loves travel, candlelit dinners, the outdoors, quiet evenings at home. Seeking feminine, attractive GWF for possible LTR. Lawrenceville ☎5033

ASIAN...
male, 34, caring, romantic, has good sense of humor, enjoys being together. Seeking friendly, honest, outgoing male. Age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4798

LOOKING TO FIND
Tall dark-skinned SM black hair brown eyes, looking for light-skinned,tall, muscular significant other. If interested please call. Decatur ☎4899

Women Seeking Women

HERE WE GO AGAIN
Petite, athletic-built WPF, 41, enjoys golf, movies, music, beach, mountains, reading. Seeking honest female, 35-50, good sense of humor, for friendship first, possible LTR. Waleska ☎3036

HONEST CAPRICORN
Sensitive SF, 35, 5'2", brown/brown, pretty smile, enjoys my dogs, country dancing, poetry, working out, singing, motorcycles, outdoors. Seeking trustworthy, affectionate, honest, sensitive SF for friendship first, maybe more. Lawrenceville ☎5037

SPORTY BUT FEMININE
Healthy in mind and body. GWF, 46, H/W proportionate, with a variety of interests, enjoys travel, hiking, tennis. Seeking woman of similar age/interests. Atlanta. McDonough ☎4764

CONSENSUAL FUN
No romantic dinners. No moonlight. No movies. No cuddly, fluffy bunnies. A little leather. A little adventure. A lot of excitement. GWF prowling for playmate. Possible LTR. Possibly not. Decatur ☎5074

SMART AND SEXY
SF, 19, black/brown, stud, likes clubbing, movies, music. Seeking laid-back SF, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. ☎5000

COME OUT AND PLAY
GWF, 31, seeks GWF, 28-45, for concerts, movies, clubs, walks in the park and other fun things. Atlanta ☎4831

I'M HERE, WHERE ARE YOU?
SF, 43, with MS, is seeking a feminine BF to spend time with, maybe more. Douglasville ☎4976

DOWN-TO-EARTH LIBRA
Full-figured GBF, 35, mother of two, enjoys movies, tennis, bowling, reading, music, travel. Seeking friendship first/LTR. D/D-free. Atlanta ☎4275

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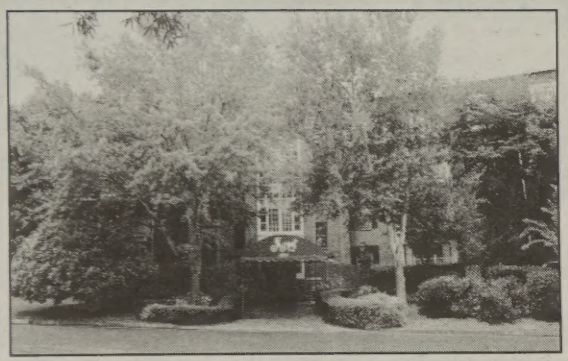

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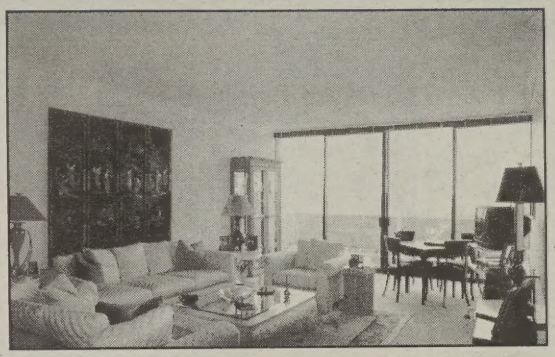
2 bedroom...2 bath...End unit...Large Living Room with fireplace with gas logs...Sun room overlooks pond...To Be Sold *"As Is"*. ***Offered at $189,900***



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southern voice

Big Easy revelry

Not for the faint-hearted or morally shy, throngs of gay men celebrate the wild side in New Orleans during Southern Decadence next weekend. Pack your costumes and check *SoVo's* preview of the Aug. 30-Sept. 3 event.
Page 25

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 28 WWW.SOVO.COM ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR *LIFE.* AND YOUR *STYLE.* AUGUST 23/2001

ATLANTA EDITION

Atlanta's Black Gay Pride celebration, held annually on Labor Day weekend, will add its first ever Pride march to the usual line-up of parties and workshops.
Atlanta section, page 13

Led by lesbian Commissioner Kecia Cunningham, the city of Decatur unanimously approved DP benefits for same-sex partners of its employees on Monday.
Atlanta section, page 1

U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), an outspoken gay rights opponent, announces he won't seek re-election, drawing cheers from gays in North Carolina and around the country.
Main section, page 10

IN THIS WEEK'S ATLANTA SECTION

Gay rep's district in danger

ATLANTA—Gov. Roy Barnes' plan to deal with last minute objections to the new state House district that would include openly gay Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale) could cost gays their only representative among 180 House members, activists say.

Redistricting maps passed by the House and Senate last week would have put Drenner, the only openly gay state legislator in the South, in a new three-post "multi-member" district with Rep. Stephanie Stuckey (D-Decatur) and Rep. Paul Jennings (R-Atlanta), a gay rights opponent.

But Barnes on Tuesday refused to approve the map because it made Drenner's current majority black district part of a new larger district that would be majority white. The governor's new proposals could pit her against Jennings for re-election.

"My sexual orientation will be fodder for the campaign, and the question is, is the gay community ready and willing to stand up and fight for me?" Drenner said.

Activists on Wednesday launched a national e-mail campaign to tell Barnes, a rumored future presidential contender, that "sacrificing" Drenner could hurt his own political aspirations.

Open to the Atlanta section, page 1

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator, could face a tough re-election battle if the General Assembly approves a new district suggested by Gov. Roy Barnes.

DeKalb new gay couple haven

Census figures show GA's second-largest county home for high percentage of gay couples

by LISA KEEN and ERIN O'BRIANT

ATLANTA—Some 594,391 same-sex couples live across all but 22 of the nation's 3,141 counties, more than four times the number of same-sex partner households who identified themselves in the 1990 Census, according to figures released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

And the numbers show that Georgia's second-largest county—DeKalb—is one of the nation's new gay meccas, with a percentage of gay couples behind only three other counties in the U.S.

"I think it's fabulous," Kecia Cunningham, the only openly lesbian on the Decatur City Commission, said about DeKalb County ranking behind only San Francisco County, Monroe County, Fla., and Hampshire County, Mass., in the percentage of gay households.

"I thought we had a nice percentage of gay people in the city of Decatur and in the county, but it's nice to see the numbers prove out," she said.

Among the same-sex households counted in Census 2000, Georgia has the seventh-largest percentage.

Across the Deep South, the census figures released Wednesday show that a handful of metropolitan statistical areas ranked among the top 25 in the percentage of the nation's 60 million coupled households that are gay: Atlanta (14), New Orleans (15), Asheville, N.C. (16) and Athens, Ga. (25).

➢ **Continued on Page 14**

Gay meccas

The 2000 Census found 594,391 same-sex unmarried partner-led households in the U.S., out of 105.5 million total homes. The top 10 counties by the percentage of all households headed by a gay couple (with actual numbers of couples):

San Francisco County, Calif.	2.70% (8,902)
Monroe County, Fla.	1.59% (558)
Hampshire County, Mass.	1.53% (855)
DeKalb County, Ga.	**1.38% (3,431)**
New York County, NY (Manhattan)	1.34% (9,886)
Arlington County, Va.	1.27% (1,095)
Suffolk County, Mass.	1.26% (3,505)
Sonoma County, Calif.	1.23% (2,125)
Denver County, Colo.	1.22% (2,916)
Multnomah County, Ore.	1.20% (3,263)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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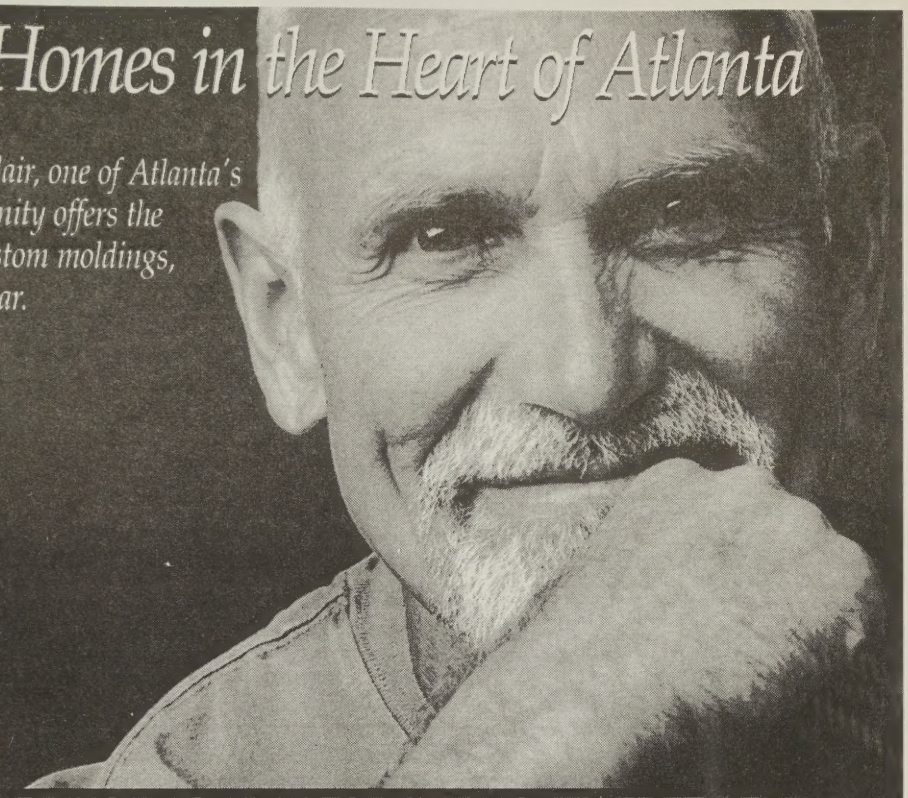

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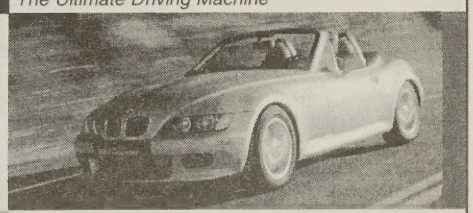

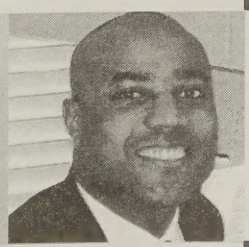

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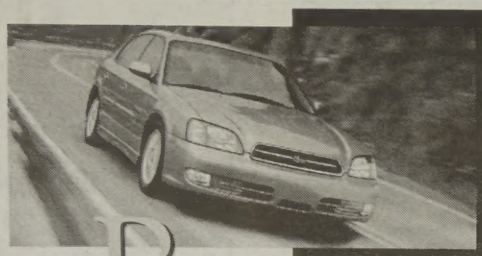

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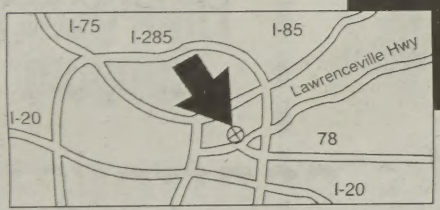

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Study shows 'very low' HIV risk from oral sex

New study puts possibility of HIV infection from oral sex somewhere between zero and two percent

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—In contrast to a report by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, a new study shows receptive oral sex carries a very small risk of HIV transmission.

The study is being conducted by researchers at the University of California San Francisco and was presented at the second National HIV Prevention Conference last week in Atlanta.

While the findings from the study are only preliminary, they have already sparked controversy among AIDS activists across the country.

"It's been acknowledged for a long time that people can acquire HIV through oral sex—I don't think anyone is disputing that. What people are at odds about is what is the risk," said Dr. Kimberly Page Shafer, who is conducting the study.

"If you talk to HIV counselors, they will tell you that the one question that all of their clients ask them, irrespective of their sex, their gender, their orientation, the one question that is universally asked is 'Can I get HIV from oral sex?'"

Shafer and her colleagues interviewed 198 people for the study. The subjects were all seeking anonymous HIV testing and had only engaged in oral sex during the last six months prior to being involved in the study.

Researchers tested the study subjects for HIV using advanced blood tests that can distinguish between a new and an old infection. Only one person in the study tested positive for HIV and researchers determined it was an old infection. Shafer said many of the people in the study performed oral sex on a partner they knew to be HIV positive.

With no one in the study testing positive for a recent HIV infection, preliminary numbers from Shafer's study put the statistical chance of getting HIV from oral sex as low as zero percent and only as high as two percent.

CDC study shows higher risk

In February 2000, the CDC released findings from a study that on the surface appears to contrast the findings from Shafer's study. The CDC study said oral sex "contributes significantly" to the spread of HIV. Eight percent of the subjects in the CDC study appeared to have been infected with HIV through oral sex.

"We actually don't see them as contrasting one another," said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention, of the two studies on oral sex and HIV transmission.

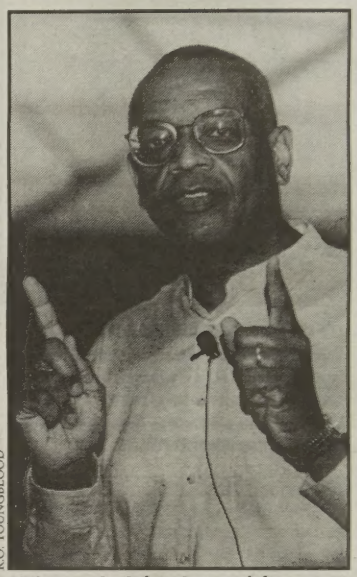
"Even in her press release, [Shafer] made the statement that while rare, it is possible to acquire HIV infection orally," he said.

Both Valdiserri and Shafer pointed out distinct differences in the methodologies used in the two studies. All subjects in the CDC study were HIV-positive going into the study and then were asked about their sexual behavior to determine how they were infected. In the UCSF study, subjects were only engaging in oral sex prior to being involved in the study.

"If you're looking at behavior that has a relatively low risk of transmission," said Valdiserri, "it's not surprising that if you pick 198 people at one particular site ... none of them are infected. That contrasts to the other study where you start out by looking at people who are recently infected within the last six months and then you go and interview them about their sexual practices."

Shafer agreed and said both studies are being misinterpreted by many people.

"That other study should not be interpreted to suggest that eight percent of people get HIV from oral sex," said Shafer. "My study, similarly, shouldn't be interpreted as no one gets HIV from oral sex."



R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

AIDS expert Dr. Robert Scott said if a person does not have any open mouth sores, transmitting HIV through oral sex is 'virtually impossible.'

Ongoing oral sex debate

The connection between HIV infection and oral sex has been debated since HIV was discovered. Andrew Sullivan, an openly gay author and former editor of the *New Republic*, said he was the subject of public ridicule when he said he believes his HIV infection was the result of oral sex.

"I have no reason to make this up," said Sullivan. "It seems to me the most plausible way I got it. Of course, I don't know for sure, who does? Just because it happened to me doesn't mean it's a major risk for most people."

Another AIDS activist, San Francisco's Michael Petrelis, questioned the timing of the UCSF study.

"Does UCSF really want me to take them seriously when they wait 20 years to try and answer the question 'Does oral sex transmit HIV?" Petrelis said. "I'm sorry, but gay men in San Francisco that I asked about this study said they were not waiting for the results of this study to come out.

"Gay men in San Francisco have not been waiting to practice oral sex for the UCSF researchers to tell us whether they believe it's safe or not," he said.

But that's exactly why Shafer said she believes her study is important. Shafer wants to find out why some people, like Sullivan, may have been infected with HIV through oral sex and why other people escape infec-

➢ Continues on Page 8

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HIV prevention confab sparks controversy

Activists criticize CDC for 'scare-mongering' with HIV infection predictions

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Information presented at the second National HIV Prevention Conference raised as many questions as it answered. Doctors, counselors and AIDS activists gathered in Atlanta last week to discuss HIV prevention methods and the current state of the epidemic, prompting some critics to accuse them of "scare-mongering."

"This is not the time for us to declare any kind of victory in terms of HIV prevention," said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention. "We obviously made some really significant successes. We're really at a critical juncture in terms of continuing forward with these successes."

Discussed during the conference were the leveling off of new HIV and AIDS cases and an increase of risky sexual behavior among men who have sex with other men, as well as an increase of sexually transmitted diseases other than HIV.

Another startling statistic showed almost half of people infected with HIV don't know their status until just before developing full-blown AIDS, causing them to miss out on almost a decade of important treatment.

Many of the speakers at the conference pointed to these studies as possible proof that the United States is on the verge of a dramatic increase in the number of people infected with HIV.

"When you begin to connect all the dots, it is not unreasonable to believe the CDC's analysis of this data," said Cornelius Baker, conference speaker and executive director of Washington's Whitman Walker Clinic, a community-based clinic for gay men and lesbians.

But while the CDC is crunching the numbers and looking ahead to an upswing in the epidemic, some AIDS activists accused the government of being "alarmist" with the predictions.

"The CDC is grasping at straws," said gay author and activist Andrew Sullivan. "There

➢ Continues on Page 8

AIDS activist Michael Petrelis charged that the CDC 'doesn't have a lot of hard verifiable statistics' to support predictions made at the recent HIV Prevention Conference.

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AIDS experts disagree on oral sex risk

➢ Continues from Page 7

tion despite the same sexual practices.

Shafer said her study will continue for about two years while she looks at co-factors that could play a role in HIV transmission through oral sex. She said she wants to determine whether it makes a difference if the person performing oral sex swallows the ejaculate of an HIV infected person.

The study will also examine if HIV has a higher risk of transmission if the person giving oral sex has trauma or open sores in their mouth.

According to one of the country's most respected AIDS experts, these factors do make a difference. Dr. Robert Scott has been treating people living with AIDS since the epidemic broke in the early '80s. He said if a person does not have any open sores in their mouth, transmitting HIV through oral sex is "virtually impossible."

"I have over 400 patients who have HIV disease," said Scott. "We carefully looked with those patients at their risk and their transmission has almost always been through either vaginal or rectal intercourse.

"If we could, in fact, get people to use rubbers when there's either vaginal or rectal intercourse, I think that we could stem the transmission of this disease by 99.9 percent," he said.

Scott said swallowing ejaculate will not increase risk, as long as the mucus membrane is intact, because "the acids in the stomach will kill the virus, period."

The CDC's Dr. Ronald Valdiserri said a new University of California study, which shows a 'very low' risk of HIV infection from oral sex, does not contradict reports released from the CDC that showed oral sex 'contributes significantly' to the spread of HIV.

While the numbers released from Shafer's study are still preliminary findings, she said it's important people know the risk of HIV transmission from oral sex is "very low."

"If they're faced with choices in their sexual life, at which point it makes no difference, I think it does make a difference," said Shafer. "We've seen risk behaviors going up and incidence rates going up. Let's remind ourselves that there are safer alternatives."

CDC criticized for 'grasping at straws'

➢ Continues from Page 7

are so many variables out there right now, it's almost impossible to know what's going on. I'm afraid I've become highly skeptical of the CDC in all this. Their recent track record of scare-mongering and headline-seeking is truly saddening."

Baker said he disagrees with activists questioning statistics that speak to an HIV resurgence.

"I find it ironic that 20 years into the epidemic, we're now accusing the government of overreacting, when all of this began because the government didn't react enough," Baker said. "When you hear people saying 'they're alarmist,' when you look at the health statistics and racial disparities in health in this country, the problem is we're not being alarmist enough."

Valdiserri said one reason the CDC presents statistics that show a new tide of HIV infections is because prevention methods are often overshadowed by news of new medications to fight the disease.

While the CDC said statistics suggest a resurgence of infections, another AIDS activist argued the numbers are not solid enough to predict trends in the epidemic.

"[The CDC] doesn't have a lot of hard verifiable statistics at this point," said activist Michael Petrelis. "At the same time, they keep getting these hysterical stories planted. If you come along and ask the question, 'Can you prove your data?' They'll say 'No, it's preliminary, we've got to keep studying the problem.'"

Another question raised at the conference is why there may be an impending increase in the number of HIV infections despite a variety of aggressive HIV treatments on the market.

Baker suggested an increase in risky behavior among gay men could be one reason for an increase in HIV infections. He also said people living with HIV are healthier than ever before and therefore may be more apt to participate in sexual activities. He pointed to the number of syphilis cases reported as evidence to support his theory.

"In some cities, around 87 percent of the people who contacted syphilis were also people with HIV," Baker said.

Yet not everyone believes such statistics point to a possible increase in the number of HIV cases.

"I'm an optimist," said Sullivan. "I think that the reason we have not seen a new explosion in HIV transmission is probably related to the fact that most HIV-negative guys are still, more or less, using condoms. And that many HIV-positive guys have such low viral loads that they are not very infectious, and that when they have condom-free sex, they tend to do so with other HIV-positive guys."

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Suspect in FL gay killings arrested on eve of NV pride event

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A teenager wanted by the FBI in the killings of two gay men in Florida and the bludgeoning of a San Francisco man was captured here Aug. 17 on the eve of the city's Gay Pride celebration. Adam Ezerski, 19, of Atlantic Beach, Fla., was found with another man, Troy Young, after driving a rented truck from San Francisco, where a red Mustang belonging to one of the Florida victims was found, police said. The FBI took Ezerski into custody, and Young was arrested on a parole violation. Ezerski allegedly attacked a 43-year-old San Francisco man Aug. 14 after befriending him and staying at his apartment for two days. Ezerski also is accused of strangling Anthony Martilotto, 39, a dual resident of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Florida, at a Fort Lauderdale hotel on July 26. The FBI also connects Ezerski to the death of Irving Sicherer, 76, who was found bludgeoned to death a day earlier in Aventura, Fla. Ezerski allegedly told police he killed Martilotto in self-defense.

MA gov to extend benefits after flack from gay stepson

BOSTON (AP)—Acting Mass. Gov. Jane M. Swift, a Republican who was criticized by her gay stepson for opposing gay marriage, said she is extending some domestic partnership benefits to gay state workers. Swift said that her administration had already extended benefits for same-sex couples to state social workers, and other workers would get benefits when their contracts are negotiated over the next two years. The benefits will be extended to the state's 70,000 employees and include leave to care for an ill partner, bereavement leave and paid time off for court appearances or counseling for victims of domestic violence. The benefits do not include health insurance, which would require an appropriation from the state legislature. In an interview with the *Boston Globe* last week, Swift's gay stepson, Brian Hunt, accused her of hypocrisy. "She wants to get the votes of the gay community, but when it comes down to it, she doesn't want to lose other votes over it," Hunt said.

ANGELA ROWLINGS/AP

Massachusetts Gov. Jane Swift recently extended domestic partnership benefits after being criticized for her stance on same-sex marriage.

SD will put up gay group's highway sign, gov says

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Seeking to defuse a lawsuit, Gov. Bill Janklow said Aug. 17 that the state will put up a sign requested by a gay group as part of the state's Adopt-A-Highway Program. But Janklow also said all signs in the program would be taken down by the end of the year. They will be replaced with generic signs noting that concerned citizens who care about keeping the roads clean are responsible for the work. "I do not think government should be used to offend people," Janklow said. He said the state Web site will list all groups involved in the program to clean up roads and highways. State Department of Transportation officials had said the Sioux Empire Gay & Lesbian Coalition did not qualify for the sign because it is an advocacy group. The group responded this week with a federal lawsuit against the state, seeking to have the sign erected and monetary damages.

St. Pat's parade leader forced out in NY over gays

NEW YORK—The President of New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade resigned from his position last week before he could be ousted for his support of letting gay men and lesbians march under their own banner, officials and parade documents reveal, according to the *New York Post*. William Flynn battled for eight months to improve the famed parade's inclusiveness and accountability. But Jim Barker, the parade's executive secretary, said that "inclusiveness" was a buzzword for making gays an integral part of the event. "I make no judgments on any human, but gays and lesbians can march happily with us, but as a separate entity under a banner, no," Barker said. A draft resolution accused Flynn of trying to appease the Irish gays. The final resolution omitted that paragraph. Flynn resigned before the board met to approve a resolution to oust him.

Davis vetoes CA birth certificate bill for sex changes

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—California Gov. Gray Davis vetoed a bill that would have expanded the pool of people who can legally obtain a new birth certificate after a sex change operation, the *Sacramento Bee* reported. "I find no compelling reason to expand existing law and therefore cannot sign this measure," Davis said. Under current law, a Californian who has undergone a sex change operation may obtain a new birth certificate by filing a petition for a new certificate with the court in his or her county of residence. The new certificates reflect gender and name changes. The legislation would have allowed anyone born in California, regardless of whether they live there now, to file a petition for a new certificate with the court in his or her county of birth. "[It] is more burdensome than just being able to hire a lawyer to do it from where they are," Eric Astacaan, a lobbyist for the California Alliance for Pride & Equality, told the *Bee*.

—From staff and wire reports

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ENTRY CRITERIA

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Helms to retire from Senate

Legacy of an anti-gay senator

1973

Helms begins his career as U.S. senator after winning election to that office in November 1972 as a Republican. He does not surface as an outspoken opponent of gays or gay civil rights in his first 6-year term in Senate.

1977

Helms expresses support for but does not take a lead role in advocating Congress's first known anti-gay measure: an amendment introduced in the House by Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.). The amendment calls for prohibiting the U.S. Legal Services Corporation from spending funds to "provide legal assistance to any proceeding or litigation which seeks to adjudicate the issue of gay rights." The amendment dies in the Senate.

1979

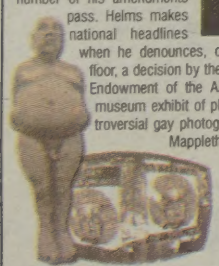
Helms co-sponsors the anti-gay Family Protection Act, introduced by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.). The bill broadens the McDonald amendment by seeking to ban federal funds for all government programs that present "homosexuality, male or female, as an acceptable alternative lifestyle or suggest that it can be an acceptable life style."

1984

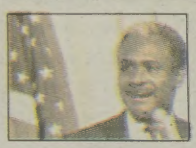
Helms wins re-election to a third term after accusing his Democratic opponent, North Carolina Gov. James Hunt, of being a captive of "special interests," including "militant homosexuals." Gay activists surface for the first time in North Carolina as staunch opponents of Helms' re-election bid and backers of the Hunt campaign.

1985-1991

In his third Senate term, Helms emerges as Congress's most outspoken opponent of gay civil rights. He introduces a flurry of anti-gay amendments and targets measures providing funding for AIDS-related programs. A number of his amendments pass. Helms makes national headlines when he denounces, on the Senate floor, a decision by the U.S. National Endowment of the Arts to fund a museum exhibit of photos by controversial gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.



1990



Helms wins re-election to a fourth term following a bruising campaign against his Democratic opponent, Charlotte, N.C., Mayor Harvey Gantt. Helms denounces Gantt for accepting support from the gay community, prompting critics to accuse Helms of taking "gay-baiting" tactics to a new height in a U.S. election campaign. He continues his role as Congress's most visible and outspoken opponent of the rights of gay people. Meanwhile, the strong gay support for the Gantt campaign opens the way for a growing gay civil rights movement in North Carolina, leading, among other things, to the formation of a statewide gay political group.

1993

Helms leads a fierce campaign to block Roberta Achtenberg, President Bill Clinton's nominee for U.S. assistant secretary of housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He startles Senate colleagues when he says he could never accept having a "damn lesbian" in a high-level position in the federal government. During the May 24, 1993, Senate debate on the Achtenberg nomination, Helms holds up a copy of the *Washington Blade* on the Senate floor, citing its coverage of her record in support of gay civil rights as a San Francisco city supervisor. The Senate votes 58-31 to approve Achtenberg's nomination.

1994

President Clinton quietly drops plans to nominate openly gay philanthropist James Hormel to the post of U.S. ambassador to the Fiji Islands after news surfaces that Helms, soon to become chair of the powerful Foreign Relations Committee, planned to block the nomination the following January. In 1997, however, Helms lets Hormel's nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg proceed to the Senate floor.

2001 [June 14]

The Senate votes 51-49 to approve an anti-gay amendment introduced by Helms that calls for withholding federal educational funds for public schools that deny meeting space for local Boy Scout troops. The amendment and Helms' anti-gay rhetoric on the Senate floor in support of the amendment marks the first time that Helms has taken a highly visible role on a gay issue in the senate in more than five years.

— Lou Chibbaro Jr.

JAMES NEAL/GRAPHIC

Activists welcome end of 'anti-gay era' in Congress

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON—Gay activists hailed the announcement Wednesday by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) that he will not seek re-election next year and will retire from the Senate at the end of his current term in January 2003.

Helms, who first won election to the Senate in 1972, earned a reputation as Congress's most anti-gay member. Beginning in the early 1980s, Helms began introducing anti-gay amendments to popular bills, forcing both Republican and Democratic senators to take a position on the subject of gay civil rights and homosexuality, something they clearly preferred not to do.

"It is our sincere hope that the retirement of Sen. Jesse Helms marks the end of an era of anti-gay activism in the Senate," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group.

Although many of Helms' anti-gay measures died in House-Senate conference committees and others were defeated on the Senate floor, a number of them won approval. Gay activists lamented the fact that Helms' actions brought to light a troubling outcome: a sizable number of senators and House members believed it was safer, politically, for them to vote against, rather than for, the rights of gay people.

Helms' anti-gay rhetoric in speeches and interviews with the press infuriated gay activists and liberal critics while delighting a cadre of right-wing supporters in North Carolina and throughout the country.

On several occasions, he referred to homosexuality in general and gay sex in particular as "disgusting." He referred to former San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, whom President Clinton nominated in 1993 as one of his first high-level gay appointments, as a "damn lesbian."

Helms told former Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) that the only way to end the AIDS epidemic is to "stop the disgusting and immoral activities that continue to spread the disease."

Long conservative career

Like many politicians from the South, Helms began his career in politics as a conservative Democrat or "Dixicrat," embracing the principles of racial segregation. After working as a Raleigh, N.C., newspaper editor in the late 1940s, Helms worked from 1951 to 1953 on the staff of two of North Carolina's Democratic senators.

After a stint as executive director of the North Carolina Bankers Association, Helms began work in 1960 as executive vice president and on-air commentator for North Carolina's WRAL-TV and the Tobacco Radio Network.

For the next 12 years, Helms became a highly recognized television personality in North Carolina, known for his strong conservative views on domestic issues and his fierce anti-Communist rhetoric when discussing foreign policy issues. But according to gay activists familiar with Helms' career, Helms did not talk about gay-related issues at that time.

Helms became a Republican shortly before winning election to the U.S. Senate in 1972. He expressed support for an anti-gay amendment introduced in the House in 1977 by Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.) and co-sponsored the Family Protection Act in 1979, which included several anti-gay clauses.

But Helms did not begin to initiate anti-gay amendments until after he won election to his third Senate term in 1984.

AP

During almost 30 years in Congress, U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) built a reputation for gay-baiting opponents and tacking anti-gay amendments onto otherwise positive legislation.

"That's when things really started to happen," said lesbian activist Mandy Carter of North Carolina.

Carter noted that Helms actually began his well-known practice of gay-baiting during his election campaign against popular North Carolina Gov. James Hunt, who was not known for taking strong positions on gay issues. Helms, pointing to gay support for the Hunt campaign, accused Hunt of being a captive of "special interests," including "militant homosexuals."

Between 1985 and 1993, Helms introduced a series of anti-gay amendments that earned him the reputation as Congress's most outspoken opponent on gay issues. He sought to attach most of his anti-gay measurers to appropriations bills, including appropriations bills providing funding for AIDS-related programs.

Helms angered gay activists and arts advocates when he sought to cut off funding for the National Endowment of the Arts after news surfaced that the endowment had funded a museum exhibit that featured the works of controversial gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Helms, among other things, objected to Mapplethorpe's photos that depicted gay men in sexually explicit poses.

In his re-election campaigns of 1990 and 1996, Helms waged a fierce campaign of both gay-baiting and race-baiting tactics against Democrat Harvey Gantt, who ran against Helms in both those years.

'Not your garden-variety lesbian'

Helms' anti-gay actions made national headlines once again in 1993 when he unleashed a fierce campaign to block President Bill Clinton's nomination of lesbian Roberta Achtenberg to the post of U.S. assistant secretary of housing.

Helms startled his Senate colleagues when he stated in a press interview that his main reason for opposing Achtenberg was because she was "damn lesbian."

He stated in another interview that Achtenberg is "not your garden-variety lesbian — she's a militant activist-mean lesbian, working her whole career to advance the homosexual agenda."

The Senate voted 58-31 to approve Achtenberg's nomination, a development viewed as a strong rebuke to Helms by his fellow senators, including many GOP senators.

Helms resumed his anti-gay endeavors less than a month after the Democrats won back control of the Senate in June of this year, forcing him to give up his post as committee chair. On June 14, Helms pushed through the Senate an amendment calling for withholding federal education funds for public schools that deny meeting space for local Boy Scout troops.

Mexican lesbians first gay couple to win asylum

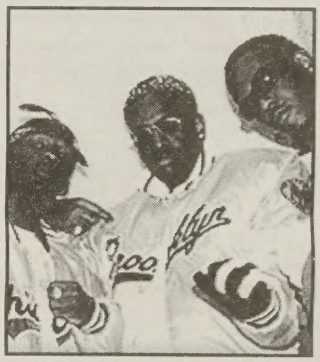
TORONTO—Two Mexican lesbians are believed to be the first same-sex couple to gain refugee status in Canada, the *Toronto Sun* reported. The Immigration & Refugee Board made the decision earlier this month, finding that the couple were members of a particular social group and faced persecution. The two women, whose names were not released, have been living in Toronto since 1999. Dian Forsey, a member of the IRB, told the *Sun* that one of the women testified that the couple had been attacked by two men, and that her ex-husband had taken her child away after learning of her relationship. The women further testified the ex-husband paid Mexican police to beat, confine and sexually assault them.

Hong Kong gay group protests police S/M party raid

HONG KONG—A protest by a small group of about 10 gay activists calling themselves "Rainbow Action" resulted in the arrest of five of them Aug. 19, according to Reuters. The protest was a response to an Aug. 6 police raid on an S/M party in which 26 people were arrested. The Rainbow Action protesters marched through Hong Kong's central district to a police station in bondage regalia. At the station, one of the protesters was tied to the station's gates. The protesters accused the police of using a double standard against those at the Aug. 6 party, arguing that some content on local television was equally "indecent." The five arrested protesters have been released on bail equivalent to about $130 each. According to the International Lesbian & Gay Association, sex between men in Hong Kong was decriminalized in 1991; sex between women was ignored in the penal code.

BBC defends homophobic reggae lyrics on Radio 1

LONDON—The BBC is defending the decision by a subsidiary radio station, Radio 1, to play a popular reggae song that critics say promotes violence against gays. Radio 1 has insisted on playing the song "Chi Chi Man" by the Jamaican band TOK after naming it the top reggae dancehall song in Britain, London's *Independent* newspaper reported. In Jamaica, the phrase "chi chi man" is slang for gay. The TOK song describes a scene of building a fire to burn chi chi men. "It has almost become an unofficial national anthem for some people in Jamaica, and for a specialist reggae show not to play it I think would be a distortion," said Radio 1's Ian Parkinson, as quoted by the *Independent*. Coincidentally, while BBC's Radio 1 has been playing the TOK song, BBC's Radio 4 has aired a program, "The Roots of Homophobia," that has examined, among other things, homophobia in TOK's lyrics.



The BBC has defended airplay of the Jamaican band TOK's homophobic 'Chi Chi Man' on its Radio 1 station.

around the world

Demonstrators support jailed Indian HIV workers

NEW DELHI, India—Protesters representing about 40 different groups demonstrated Aug. 13 in support of four HIV/AIDS educators who were arrested July 7 and remain detained, Reuters reported. The four are associated with Naz Foundation International and a subsidiary organization, Bharosa Trust. Police in the city of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, first arrested a Bharosa HIV/AIDS outreach educator in a park frequented by gay men. Afterward, police raided the offices of both organizations and accused Bharosa of hosting sex parties. In the raids, police arrested others and confiscated educational materials, such as dildos used for condom demonstrations. Activists explained the police actions as backlash against "promoting homosexuality, which is inimical to Indian cultural values," according to Reuters. "In my program, our outreach workers are constantly harassed by the police on the pretext that we are promoting homosexuality," said Shaleen Rakesh of Naz Foundation (India) Trust. "How are we expected to prevent the spread of AIDS, which is transmitted primarily through sexual relations, without talking about sex?"

Ontario teachers union votes in favor of gay books

TORONTO—To cheers, the bulk of delegates at the annual meeting of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario passed a motion advocating gay literature for primary school students, the *Toronto Star* reported. Among the 500-plus delegates present for the Aug. 15 vote, roughly 20 opposed the measure. The new policy puts the union in a position to, upon request, lobby school boards to establish funding for "materials for student use which reflect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender realities." Liona Laird, a lesbian, parent and teacher, introduced the motion. "It is my duty as a teacher to make sure that I provide the best education that I can for all of the children," Laird said, according to the *Star*. "There are many children who feel invisible because they see single-parent families and they see mom-and-dad families, but they're not exposed to same-sex parent families," she added.

—From staff and wire reports

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NYC jury hands AmFAR founding director fraud conviction

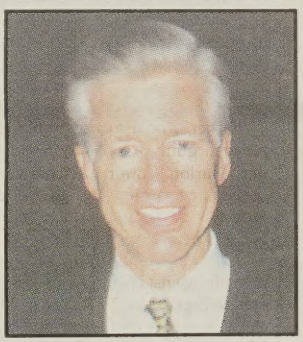
NEW YORK (AP)—A jury convicted Manhattan socialite Elizabeth Kummerfeld and three other defendants Aug. 17 of swindling investors out of millions of dollars. Kummerfeld, 69, is the founding director of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, known as AmFAR. She was convicted of conspiracy to commit fraud and faces up to five years in prison when she is sentenced. No date has been set. Assistant U.S. Attorney Marc Weinstein told jurors that Kummerfeld pocketed nearly $300,000 in 1998 and 1999 from victims she lured into a get-rich-quick venture. The investors were told they would reap huge profits by investing in notes secretly traded by "top European banks." On one wiretap, Kummerfeld was heard assuring a potential investor that she was contributing her referral fees to a foundation supporting the United Nations, Weinstein said. The money instead went into Kummerfeld's bank account, he said. Kummerfeld once flew to Japan and persuaded a businessman to donate $1 million to AIDS research for a kiss from Elizabeth Taylor.

Murder trial opens for IN male gay bar stripper

FRANKLIN, Ind. (AP)—The trial of a male stripper prosecutors contend betrayed the trust of a retired teacher by allegedly robbing him and his wife at knifepoint and then killing them began Aug. 15. Fernando Griffith, 24, is charged with murder, arson and burglary in the May 2000 slayings of 60-year-old Lloyd Georges and his 58-year-old wife, Judy. Both were retired schoolteachers. Johnson County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Brad Cooper told jurors that Griffith, who had worked for the Georges as a landscaper, killed the couple after a knifepoint robbery went bad. When he was arrested, two days after the murders, Griffith was allegedly carrying one of Lloyd Georges' rings, Cooper said. He also said drops of blood found at the Georges's home matched Griffith's DNA. But Griffith's attorney said that Lloyd Georges often bought jewelry for Griffith, an exotic dancer he had met in a gay bar, and Griffith frequently visited Georges' home.

CA judge denies bail for Rosenkrantz during appeal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Superior Court judge denied bail earlier this month for convicted killer Robert Rosenkrantz, although the same judge had granted Rosenkrantz parole in June, arguing that Gov. Gray Davis has an unlawful policy of denying parole to murderers. Judge Paul Gutman, whose June 21 order to free Rosenkrantz is pending before a state appellate court, ruled there is no legal basis to support Rosenkrantz's motion to be released on bail or freed on his own recognizance while awaiting that ruling. Rosenkrantz, 34, is serving 17 years to life for the 1985 murder of a boyhood friend who revealed Rosenkrantz's homosexuality to Rosenkrantz's father. Rosenkrantz has been described as a model prisoner and has become an expert with computers during his 16 years in prison. Several lawmakers, and even the judge who sentenced him, have lobbied for his release. "The judge's decision wasn't unreasonable in light of the circumstances, but we would have liked him to grant bail so Mr. Rosenkrantz can be free while appeal is pending," said Donald Specter, Rosenkrantz's attorney.



Gov. Gray Davis blocked parole for Robert Rosenkrantz, a gay man and convicted killer. A Superior Court judge has ruled that Rosenkrantz will remain in jail while he appeals Davis's decision.

police beat

Brazilian neo-Nazi sentenced for anti-gay attack

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—A judge has sentenced a neo-Nazi skinhead to more than three years in jail on attempted murder charges stemming from his part in a gang attack on a gay couple that left one man dead. Jorge da Conceicao Soler, 20, was sentenced to three years and four months for attempting to kill Dario Pereira in February 2000, as Pereira walked arm-in-arm with another man, Edson Neris da Silva, in a downtown Sao Paulo square. A gang of about 30 skinheads attacked them, and although Pereira got away, Neris was caught and beaten to death with brass knuckles and chains. Soler was acquitted of murder charges in Neris's death. Sao Paulo skinheads, who flaunt swastikas and greet each other with stiff-armed fascist salutes, frequently target gays, Jews, blacks and migrants from Brazil's impoverished northeast.

Gay CA man gets 50 years to life for killing partner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Hollywood man must spend at least 50 yeas in prison for killing his male lover, a former deputy public defender. Michael Edward Shaw, 50, was sentenced Aug. 17 to 50 years to life in prison for the October 1999 shooting death of Albert Sanchez at the home they shared. The judge denied defense requests to reduce the conviction to second-degree murder or order a new trial. The defense maintained that Shaw fired in self-defense because he thought that Sanchez had retrieved a gun after ordering him out of the house. But Judge Craig Veals said the killing was "absolutely incomprehensible," adding that the victim had been "very generous to you, generous to a fault." Shaw has no previous criminal record.

—From staff and wire reports

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Second suspect in WV murder case pleads guilty

Teen accused of killing black gay man will be eligible for parole in eight years

by RHONDA SMITH

FAIRMONT, W.Va.—A second teenager charged with killing a black gay man in Grant Town, W.Va., last summer pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder and received a 20-year prison sentence.

Jared Matthew Wilson had been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit a felony in connection with the death of 26-year-old Arthur "J.R." Warren Jr. last July. He faced a life sentence with no chance of parole.

As part of Wilson's guilty plea, the conspiracy charge was dismissed and he received a sentence that makes him eligible for parole in eight years.

"Jared Wilson was a lot less culpable in the death of J.R. Warren," said Fran Whiteman, Wilson's lawyer. "Jared has been remorseful throughout this whole case. At least he has shown that to us."

Wilson and David Allen Parker, both 18 and white, were charged with first-degree murder in connection with beating Warren last July 4 by kicking and stomping him with steel-toed boots, and then running over his body with a Camaro four times.

Parker, who also was from Grant Town, pleaded guilty July 12 to first-degree murder. Marion County Circuit Court Judge David Janes sentenced him to life in prison with mercy, making him eligible for parole in 18 years. Janes also sentenced Wilson.

As part of Parker's plea agreement, he was to testify against Wilson, whose trial was scheduled to begin Aug. 27. Wilson of Mannington, W.Va., has said Parker began the attack on Warren and that he would also have been beaten if he had not taken part in what happened.

The victim's family agreed to the lighter sentence, although second-degree murder can carry a maximum prison sentence of 40 years.

Parker had a long-standing sexual relationship with the 26-year-old Warren and initiated the beating in a drug- and alcohol-induced rage after learning that Warren had told others about their relationship, the Associated Press reported.

When Warren came to a vacant house Parker and Wilson were painting last summer, the teenagers reportedly took $20 from the victim and began arguing with him about the sexual gossip. The teenagers had been drinking beer, huffing gasoline and snorting tranquilizers in the hours before the beating.

The plea agreement in Parker's case last month spared the victim's parents, Brenda and Arthur Warren Sr., and their two surviving children, Audra and Michael, from what promised to be a grueling trial, according to AP.

Brenda Warren said this week that allegations about a sexual relationship between her son and Parker did not influence the family's decision to accept the plea agreements.

"I'm not trying to say people can know every single thing about their child, but the type of person J.R. was, and the way he treated people," she said, "I'm sorry, but I don't believe it."

Before Parker was sentenced, Brenda Warren told him in court that he had murdered twice, by taking her son's life and then "telling lies about him."

David Smith, spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, said the plea agreement was something the Warren family consented to, so their wishes should be respected.

"It was a decision for them to make and for them alone to make," he said. "It's our view that these two perpetrators committed adult crimes that involved unbelievably vicious brutality.

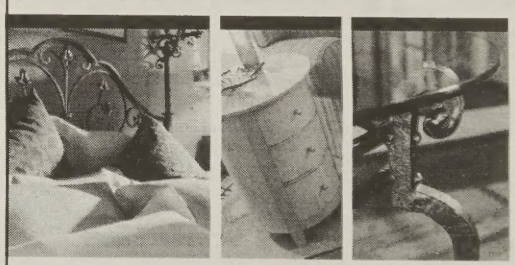
"Regardless of what's being said about motivation," he added, "there's no doubt that bias did play a role in this crime."

Brenda Warren said that the brutality and hatred connected with her son's murder resulted because he was black and gay.

Born in Grant Town, a rural, racially segregated community with 700 residents, J.R. Warren was the oldest of the Warrens' three children. At the time of his death, Warren was unemployed and lived at home.

While in school, his mother said he was enrolled in special education courses. He also served on the usher board at Mount Beulah Baptist Church in Grant Town.

Jared Wilson pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Arthur 'J.R.' Warren in a case gay activists believe was motivated by bias.



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GA county a new gay haven, Census shows

➢ Continued from Page 1

But significant questions loom over the accuracy of the national census reporting on same-sex partner households, particularly about how good the U.S. Census Bureau is at collecting and analyzing this type of data and how good same-sex couples are at identifying themselves on the census questionnaire.

Even more importantly for political purposes, the 2000 Census did not even attempt to collect data on single gays or the total number of gays living in the U.S. The Census Bureau rejected requests to gather that information, and even some activists acknowledge that questions about sexual orientation are fraught with the complications over definitions and self-identity.

By the numbers

But it does appear the Census Bureau has done a better job than 10 years earlier analyzing the responses when two adults of the same sex and sharing a household identified each other as their "unmarried partner." Among the highlights:

•The 594,391 same-sex partner households represented just over one-half a percent (0.56 percent) of the nation's 105 million households in 2000 (compared to 0.16 percent in 1990); they represented more than 12 percent (12.18 percent) of the nation's roughly 5 million unmarried partner households (both heterosexual and same-sex couples) in 2000 (compared to 4.6 percent in 1990).

•While historically, gay men have outnumbered lesbians in other surveys—often by as much as five-to-one—in the 2000 Census, lesbian couple households rank almost evenly with gay male same-sex households. There were 293,365 female couple households (49.4 percent) and 301,026 male couple households (50.6 percent) nationally.

•Male couples were in the majority of same-sex partner households in only 15 states and the District of Columbia, but they were heavily concentrated in five states with the largest number of same-sex households (California, New York, Texas, Florida and Illinois).

•The largest percentage of the country's same-sex partner households were reported in California, which had 15.5 percent of gay households nationwide, followed by New York, with 7.82 percent, Texas with 7.22 percent, and Florida, with 6.9 percent. The number of same-sex partner households in those four states alone accounted for more than one-third of all same-sex partner households in the country.

•As a percentage of all households in each state, the highest concentration of same-sex couples was in the District of Columbia (where same-sex couples represented almost 1.5 percent of all households). Vermont held second place (with gay couple households totaling 0.803 percent of all households) and California (with 0.801 percent).

The smallest concentration of same-sex partner households came in Iowa (with 0.322 percent), South Dakota (with 0.285 percent), and, in last place, North Dakota (with 0.273 percent).

•Lesbian couples outnumbered gay male couples most in the state of Vermont, home of the landmark civil union legislation. Female couple households comprised 60.6 percent of all same-sex couple households in the Green State. Gay male couples most outnumbered lesbian couples in the District of Columbia, where 73.2 percent of all same-sex couples were male.

•Of the 10 most populous metropolitan areas in the country, the Washington-Baltimore area had the highest percentage of same-sex couple households compared to all households (1.5 percent), followed by San Francisco (with 1.1 percent), and New York City (with 0.8 percent).

While not one of the top 10 largest metropolitan areas in the country, the Atlanta area had the same concentration of same-sex partner households as New York City, at 0.8 percent. The concentration of gay households in New Orleans was only slightly smaller, at 0.7 percent, comparable to Los Angeles.

•Among small towns with noted gay appeal, Provincetown had the highest concentration of same-sex couple households (with 12.8 percent of all households), followed by West Hollywood (4.2 percent), and Northampton, Mass., and Key West, Fla. (with 3 percent each).

•In a glance at neighborhoods known for their concentration of gays, Boston's South End had the highest concentration of same-sex couples—8.3 percent of its households identified as same-sex partners.

The Atlanta area that includes portions of Midtown, Virginia-Highland and Morningside showed 6.1 percent of all households headed up by same-sex partners; Chelsea, in Manhattan, had 4.3 percent of its households identified as same-sex partners; the 17th Street strip area of Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Circle reported 4.1 percent of all households were same-sex partners, and, in San Francisco, in the Folsom Street neighborhood, 2.6 percent of all households were identified as same-sex partner households.

CINDY SPROUL

Kecia Cunningham, a lesbian city commissioner in Decatur, Ga., said new Census numbers showing a high number of same-sex partners in DeKalb County are 'pretty cool.'

Same-sex households by metro area

The 2000 Census found 60.5 million homes led by a couple. Of those, the top 25 metropolitan statistical areas ranked by the percentage of gay or lesbian homes:

CITY, STATE	% OF COUPLES WHO ARE GAY
San Francisco–Oakland–San Jose, CA	2.04
Santa Fe, NM	1.95
Portland, ME	1.60
Miami–Fort Lauderdale, FL	1.56
Bloomington, IN	1.55
Austin–San Macos, TX	1.53
Madison, WI	1.49
Burlington, VT	1.48
Springfield, MA	1.47
Seattle–Tacoma, WA	1.47
Albuquerque, NM	1.44
Gainsville, FL	1.44
Iowa City, IA	1.42
Atlanta, GA	1.40
New Orleans, LA	1.38
Asheville, NC	1.37
San Diego, CA	1.36
Eugene, OR	1.31
Los Angeles, CA	1.29
Portland, OR	1.28
New York–Long Island, NY	1.28
Sacramento–Yolo, CA	1.28
Lawrence, KS	1.28
Denver–Boulder–Greenley, CO	1.28
Athens, GA	1.27

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

DeKalb as gay center

Despite the concentration of gay households in areas known as gay strongholds in metro Atlanta—Midtown, Virginia-Highland and Morningside—the census figures show a shift, crowning DeKalb County as one of the South's new gay havens.

Harry Knox, executive director of gay rights advocacy group Georgia Equality, said he is not surprised that DeKalb ranked ahead of other metropolitan counties, including New York County, in the percentage of same-sex households.

"The political leaders in the county, both at the county and in the city of Decatur and to a lesser degree in Avondale Estates, have really been clear that they are welcoming of gay people and that they want everyone in the county to feel both welcome and safe," he said, citing the county's decision to offer domestic partnership benefits in April.

Knox said he was surprised to see relative gender parity among same-sex couples in the county.

Cunningham said gays settle in DeKalb because of the county's relatively moderate housing prices.

"I think DeKalb County has a lot to offer and I think the county is known for its diversity," she said. "I know a lot of lesbian households are there because the real estate is still accessible… to own your own home."

Vernon Jones, DeKalb's CEO elected last year with the help of gay support, said the figures demonstrate the county's diversity.

"DeKalb County continues to prove to the local area and the nation that it is truly diverse by race culture and lifestyle choices," Jones said through a spokesperson Wednesday.

A correct count?

The U.S. Census Bureau has not yet released its own tally on the number of same-sex partner households nationally, but should next month, according to Census Bureau Demographer Tavia Simmons. But, as the Census Bureau released the last of its state-by-state reports Aug. 22, significant concerns were hanging over just how carefully the agency has handled its data concerning same-sex partner households.

The primary focus of the concern is a

➢ Continued on Page 15

Census counts gay couples, but leaves singles out

Vernon Jones, CEO of DeKalb County, said that the Georgia county ranking as one of the country's new gay havens is one more example of the area's diversity.

➢ Continued from Page 14

"Technical Note" appended to the same-sex partner data. That note, issued in late June, stated that a "direct comparison" of numbers from the 1990 census and the 2000 census "may lead to misleading conclusions" and "is not substantively valid."

The "complication," Simmons said, is that, in both 1990—the first year the census provided a means by which gays could identify their partners as such (rather than as "roommates" or some other less accurate description)—and in 2000, some same-sex couples identified each other as "spouses" and as "married."

When the agency's analysts came across a form in 1990 that showed two people of the same sex indicating they were "married" and were each other's "spouse," the Census Bureau "reviewed" their 1990 census forms for other clues and counted many of them in some category other than same-sex partner households.

The common "Short Form" census survey, filled out by five out of six Americans, omitted the question about marital status for the 2000 Census and, this year, the bureau classified as a same-sex partner anyone who identified himself or herself as the "spouse" of a householder of the same sex.

In response to the Census Bureau's revelation and its contention that data from the 2000 survey cannot be compared to that of the 1990 census, the Human Rights Campaign issued its own analysis on Wednesday.

HRC's report contends that the numbers from the 2000 Census still represent a "dramatic" increase over the 1990 numbers despite the "flaws" in the previous count. HRC further estimates that the number of same-sex partner households counted in 2000 "could be undercounted as much as 62 percent."

Both HRC and the Census Bureau agree that, in addition to the Census Bureau's changes in how it counts same-sex couples, there are several possible reasons why the numbers are higher for same-sex partner households in the 2000 Census, including increased efforts by national gay organizations at the time of last year's survey to educate and encourage gay couples about identifying themselves on the census form.

Another reason, they say, is the improved political and cultural climate for many gays in 2000, compared to 1990, for being identified as gay.

There could even have been an increase in the number of gay couples in 2000 due to the change in the cultural climate for gays and the increased focus on same-sex relationships, particularly around the battles over same-sex marriage rights.

Spinsters or gays?

The Census Bureau may have also missed another aspect of its data that could reflect a sizable gay population nationwide: those who indicated on the survey that they had never been married.

The census data shows a growing number of people who indicated that they have never been married, but the agency took that as a sign that more men and women were "postponing" marriage, according to a June 29 statement from the Census Bureau.

Between 1970 and 2000, noted the Census press release, "the proportion of those who had never married doubled for women ages 20 to 24, from 36 percent to 73 percent, and more than tripled for women ages 30 to 34, from 6 percent to 22 percent."

The bureau apparently did not consider that the increased numbers might also reflect a growing number of gays bucking the expectation that they hide their sexual orientation and marry someone of the opposite sex.

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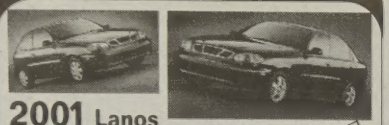

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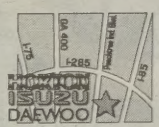

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religion report

NC minister receives warmer welcome 22 years later

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Rev. Carter Heyward learned Sunday you can go home again when she preached for the first time in 22 years at Myers Park Baptist Church. The *Charlotte Observer* reported that Heyward's invitation to speak at the Charlotte church in 1979—several months after coming out as a lesbian—resulted in lay leaders calling on the pastor to rescind the offer and a few families quitting to protest her appearance. "I could not stay closeted and preach as a priest or theologian with much integrity," said Heyward, a Charlotte native and a nationally known Episcopal priest. During a discussion following her sermon, she advised people with different biblical views on homosexuality to talk to each other. "We need to be able to listen to one another—ideally to one another's stories as well as to one another's opinions about what is right and wrong," said Heyward, who teaches at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass.

Rev. Carter Heyward, an openly lesbian pastor, returned to a Charlotte, N.C., church on Sunday, some 22 years after being rebuffed by lay leaders.

Baptist church in TX leaves group over anti-gay policies

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Members of the University Baptist Church in Austin have withdrawn from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship because the national organization enforces anti-gay policies. Church members voted Aug. 15 to withdraw from the fellowship, which prohibits the hiring of non-celibate gay men and lesbians, bars them from missionary work and prohibits the organization from giving money to gay groups or causes. "Because it is God's call for our congregation to minister with gay and lesbian Baptist Christians and their families, we cannot in good conscience support an organization which discriminates against our brothers and sisters in Christ," wrote the Rev. Larry Bethune in a letter from the Austin church to the national group. The Cooperate Baptist Fellowship represents 1,800 churches and is one of several alternative fellowships formed recently because of disagreements between conservatives and moderates in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Gay priest resigns from Church of England after 18 years

LONDON—Rev. Martin Kelly recently became the first Anglican priest to publicly discuss why he is leaving the Church of England after 18 years of service. "I have stayed as long as I have because I feel called to be a priest," he wrote. "I did not ask to be gay. I did not ask to be Christian. It is what I am." London's *Daily Telegraph* reported that Kelly, priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's Church, Limpsfield Chart, Kent, explained his decision in a letter to Rt. Rev. Tom Butler, bishop of Southwark. "There is a rule of celibacy for homosexuals but not for heterosexuals, and I cannot live with the double standards any more," Kelly said. At the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury several years ago, the majority of the 800 bishops of the Anglican Communion reiterated their stance against allowing non-celibate gay clergy to practice or be ordained in the denomination. Four Church of England priests have resigned in the past year to protest the denomination's ban on non-celibate gay clergy.

England's Anglican dergy quietly support gay unions

WEST MIDLANDS, England—Anglican clergy who support gay couples are privately presiding over unofficial marriage-style services at churches across the West Midlands, the British Broadcasting Corporation recently reported. "It is bold, prophetic and courageous clergy who believe that it is their duty who are prepared to offer services to us," Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement, told BBC Radio WM. The Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement receives at least 40 requests each year for marriage blessings, and there are about 500 requests a year for such services from across the country, BBC Online News reported. Kirker said the church hierarchy officially "turns a blind eye" to such ceremonies but in some cases they try to discourage clergy from participating in them. Very Rev. Gordon Mursell, provost of St. Philip Cathedral in Birmingham, said, "If a couple wanted to commit themselves to each other, I would not have a problem with that, although I would not call it a marriage."

CA gay Catholic priest set to quit post with ministry

LOS ANGELES—After serving 11 years, Father Peter Liuzzi, who is gay and celibate, was set to resign this week as director of the Los Angeles Roman Catholic Archdiocese's Ministry with Gay & Lesbian Catholics. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Liuzzi's encounter with a dying man his cousin asked him to administer the last rites to 18 years ago helped spur the priest's commitment to HIV/AIDS and gay civil rights causes. The man, who died of AIDS-related complications, was his cousin Gary Rini's partner, Kevin. A conservative Catholic newspaper outed Liuzzi after he acknowledged his sexual orientation during a parish meeting. "What does it mean to be a priest? I think it means to be one who bears. Jesus is the priest. He bears the ambiguity. He bears the contradictions," said Liuzzi, a Carmelite priest under solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

—From staff and wire reports

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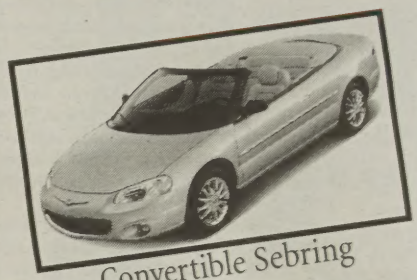

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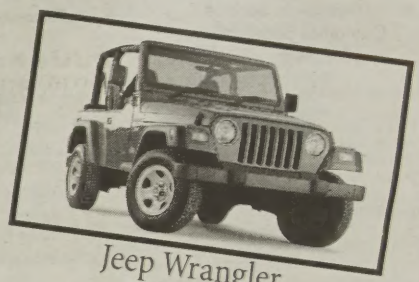

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EDITORIAL

Barnes: Keep our one place at the table

by CHRIS CRAIN

Karla Drenner is the first and only openly gay member of the Georgia General Assembly, and we aim to keep her there. If Gov. Roy Barnes and his redistricting mapmakers aren't with us in that effort, then they're against us, plain and simple.

The Georgia General Assembly is a table with 180 places. Right now, we can claim a single seat, occupied by Rep. Karla Drenner, the first and only openly gay candidate ever to win election to our state legislature.

After a round of redistricting tightly controlled by Gov. Roy Barnes and his apparatchiks, Drenner was thrown into one of the "multi-member districts" dreamed up by Democrats to dilute Republican voting strength. It's ugly and anti-democratic (with a little "d"), but it's politics.

At least the multi-member district that passed last week included plenty of new gay and gay-friendly constituents for Drenner to woo, including the Emory, Decatur and Druid Hills neighborhoods of DeKalb County, newly christened by the 2000 Census as one of the country's top five "gay couple meccas."

But Barnes is now refusing to back the same map produced by a process he controlled, worried over the legal vulnerability of three districts, including Drenner's, where minority voting strength may have been diluted. So far, he's offered Drenner only two alternative district maps, which range from worrisome to disastrous.

The worrisome alternative involves shuffling the boundaries of Drenner's current district to reconstitute a majority-black constituency. This would leave Drenner somewhat vulnerable to a primary challenge by an African-American candidate, though she has proven adept at reaching across racial lines before.

The disastrous alternative pits Drenner against anti-gay Republican Paul Jennings, in a district that includes only a few neighborhoods currently represented by Drenner, including her own. It's the kind of gerrymandered map that Ralph Reed and his Georgia GOP would draft so they could mount a divisive campaign of gay-baiting that would run Drenner out of office. Barnes and his staff ought to be admonished for even floating it.

Fair warning to Barnes and Democratic Party leaders in the state of Georgia: We have one place at a table with 180 seats, and we aim to keep it. In that effort, you are either with us or against us. If you throw to the wolves Karla Drenner, a historic symbol of representation for a group finally flexing its political muscle, then you can expect much the same treatment. And it will be richly deserved.

There's been a lot of talk in political circles that Roy Barnes fancies himself a candidate for president in 2004. If so, he's got a lot of work to do in the meantime, proving himself willing to expend some of his impressive political capital on behalf of his gay and lesbian constituents, who are playing a more and more powerful role nationally, especially within the Democratic Party.

To date, Barnes has used relatively little of his legendary prowess in the General Assembly to support our interests.

When a gay-inclusive hate crime bill passed the Senate last year but languished when rural House Democrats wouldn't support it, Barnes sat by while "sexual orientation" was stripped from the bill. The version he signed was no different than the watered-down law that George W. Bush supported in Texas.

Even if Barnes has no aspirations for higher office, he will be running for reelection in 2002, and he'll be counting on his redistricting plan to keep Democrats in charge at the General Assembly.

But the whole thing won't work if gay Georgians stay home, or support gay-friendly Republicans and third-party alternatives. And that's exactly what we should do if the governor and his party henchmen can't see their way clear to protect our one measly place at a table with 180 seats.

It's important that each and every one of us take the time to communicate that message, in our own words, to Barnes and Bobby Kahn, his chief of staff and top political strategist.

There is another call you can make, as well. Cathy Woolard, the openly gay member of the Atlanta City Council, has played an unofficial role as Barnes' liaison to the gay community and has been rewarded with some plum gubernatorial appointments.

Let's hope she uses that unprecedented gay access to urge better treatment of Drenner from the governor.

AJC *misses the story*

Even as Barnes ignores his gay and lesbian supporters, the city's newspaper of record has once again missed the "gay angle" to the story.

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* aspires to be one of the top newspapers in the country, but in truth it lags behind several in the region, including the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Miami Herald*, and even the *Tennessean* in Nashville. Part of the reason is the routine way it approaches political stories, always featuring the same good-ole-boy "players."

It was only recently that the *AJC* even discovered the "gay story," and since then the paper has done a decent job reporting on some stories, like the recent census statistics.

But the newspaper's political coverage is almost willfully ignorant of gay and lesbian issues.

The *AJC* is bleeding pages of ink on the redistricting story, including how it affects Drenner's district, but with absolutely no acknowledgement of how she represents the only gay voice at the General Assembly, much less the upset the latest maps have caused within the gay community.

That "gay angle" apparently isn't of interest to the same newspaper that gleefully reported on conservative upset over Drenner's decision to list her partner as her "spouse" in the legislative directory. A juicy gay story about a few angry conservatives made for good *AJC* copy, but an important angle to the redistricting story about angry gay constituents doesn't rate.

We are reading this week about how our numbers are dramatically larger than many political leaders ever imagined. It's high time we unleashed those numbers on those public officials and community representatives who all too often are sleeping on the job.

ACTION!info

Rep. Karla Drenner
P.O. Box 348
Avondale, GA 30003
404-508-4128
dren16999@aol.com

Gov. Roy Barnes
201 Capitol Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-1776
e-mail from Web:
www.ganet.org

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Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
Atlanta Media Resource Center
159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Suite 506
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-614-3700
www.glaad.org

Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Public Editor Mike King
Phone: 404-526-5819
Fax: 404-526-5611
E-mail: insideajc@ajc.com

LETTERS

Murders were gender-related

To the Editor:

We are concerned about *Southern Voice's* recent coverage of the the murders of Chattanooga drag legend Lester Childress, and Nashville bus driver Willie Houston, who was shot while holding a girlfriend's purse. ("Two killings shock TN gays," Mid South news, Aug. 9).

While gender appears integral to both crimes, and despite the fact that Mr. Houston is straight, *Southern Voice* quickly termed both murders anti-gay hate crimes and omitted any reference to gender in its coverage.

GenderPAC believes it is important to acknowledge gender when it appears to be at issue, especially in bias-related crimes. We encourage *Southern Voice* to do so not only because it is in the interest of fair, accurate and inclusive journalism, but because it helps educate the public that many of us still face the final violence not only because of who we love, but how we look.

Riki Wilchins
Executive Director
GenderPAC

Editor's note: The article referred to the murders as "gay-related," not anti-gay; the latter characterization was made by activists in Tennesee about the Nashville murder. The article also reported that Houston, the Nashville victim, was heterosexual and holding his girlfriend's purse. Southern Voice *stands by the story.*

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Names may be withheld upon request, but submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.
Southern Voice, Suite 100, 1095 Zonolite Road, Atlanta, GA 30306 • fax: 404-876-2709 • e-mail: editor@sovo.com

Bravo to the Braves for 'gay night'

To the Editor:

My husband Rob and I are very proud of the Braves and Turner Stadium for standing strong against a flurry of hate by ignorant people and media.

Being inclusive to all groups of people, including lesbians and gay men, is the right thing to do. Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy America's favorite pasttime without feeling excluded.

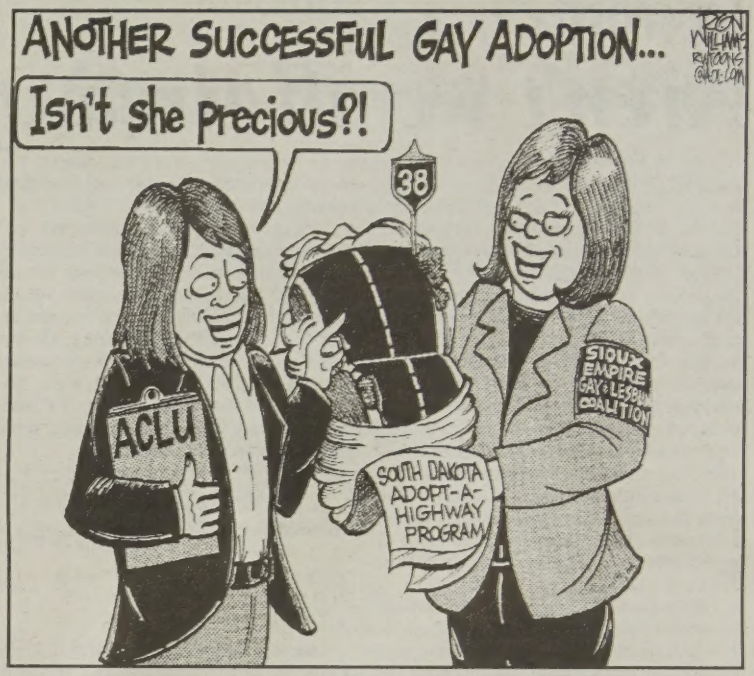
Unfortunately many people would like for gays to disappear the same way that a lot of people wanted Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play Major League Baseball, to disappear.

As my husband Rob and I stood at attention, holding hands, for the National Anthem sung by a quartet from the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, we felt proud to be gay Americans. It seems that everyone in the stadium on the night of Aug. 8—straight and gay—felt proud to be an American.

After the anthem, the game went on without a hitch. The only difference with any other Braves baseball game is that the gay and lesbian fans were all sitting in one area together in the stadium instead of sitting throughout the stadium.

The purpose of that Braves game was to show the selection committee for the Gay Games that Atlanta is inclusive and has the right venues to support such an event. We believe that the goal was achieved and look forward to attending the Gay Games in 2006 at Turner Field, as well as other venues throughout Atlanta.

Clay Calhoun
Atlanta



Gay 'cracker' is minority, too

To the Editor:

I have moved back to Atlanta for one week, and I am outraged by a letter in the *Southern Voice* complaining about "black news" in the paper (letter, Aug. 2).

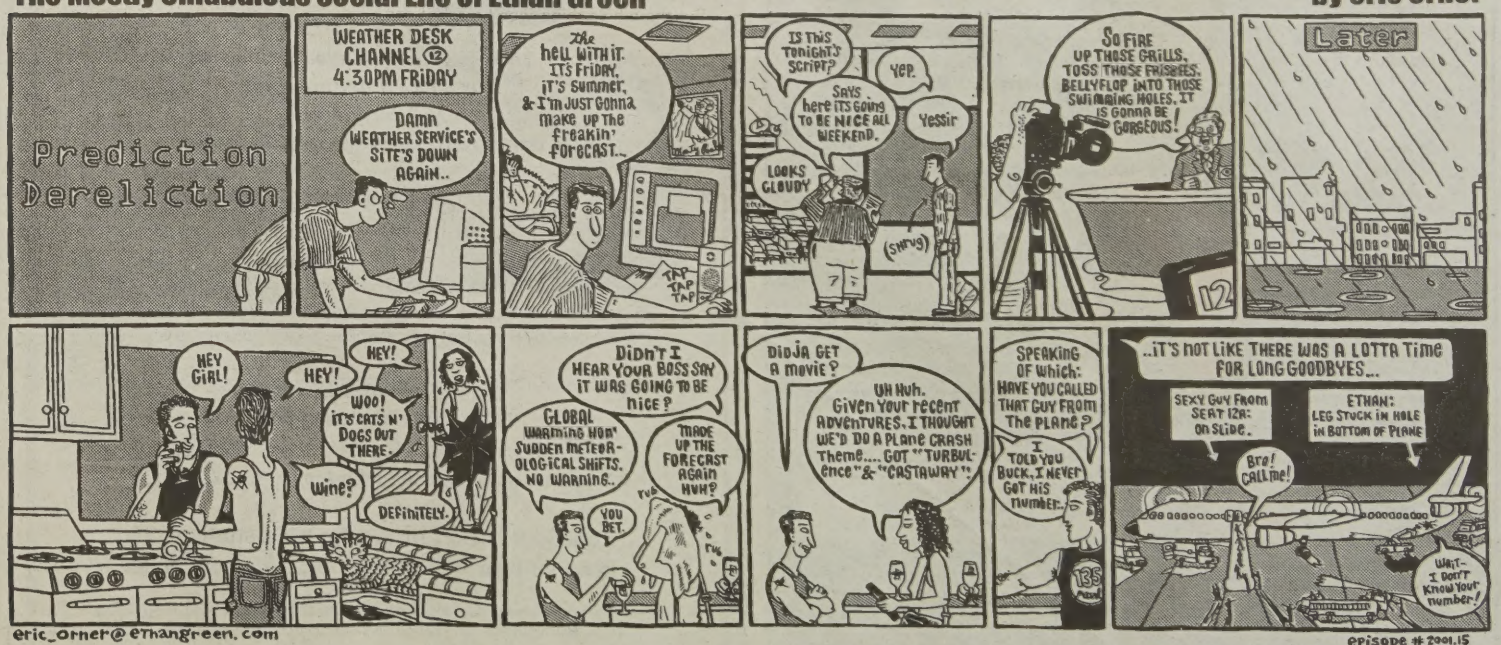
The letter writer says that minorities stand ready to take his life or livelihood. The last time I looked in the help wanted ads, there were plenty of good paying jobs in metro Atlanta to go around. And is he so sheltered that he doesn't know that whites murder, too.

The letter writer also seems to forget that, as a gay man, he is also a "minority." It was only a few years back when gay men couldn't get a one-bedroom apartment together.

If it weren't for newspapers like *SoVo* covering our "minority" plight, we would be nowhere in our own struggles.

I am an American Indian and gay and I am a playwright. The letter writer is probably a white man who shoved his way into my country. Don't cast stones until you have lived my life.

L.W. Smith
Marietta, Ga.


The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green
by eric orner
Prediction Dereliction
WEATHER DESK CHANNEL 12 4:30PM FRIDAY
DAMN WEATHER SERVICE'S SITE'S DOWN AGAIN..
THE HELL WITH IT. IT'S FRIDAY, IT'S SUMMER, & I'M JUST GONNA MAKE UP THE FREAKIN' FORECAST..
TAP TAP TAP
IS THIS TONIGHT'S SCRIPT?
YEP.
SAYS HERE ITS GOING TO BE NICE ALL WEEKEND.
YESSIR
LOOKS CLOUDY
(SHRUG)
SO FIRE UP THOSE GRILLS, TOSS THOSE FRISBEES, BELLYFLOP INTO THOSE SWIMMING HOLES, IT IS GONNA BE GORGEOUS!
12
Later
HEY GIRL!
HEY!
HEY!
WOO! IT'S CATS N' DOGS OUT THERE
WINE?
DEFINITELY
DIDN'T I HEAR YOUR BOSS SAY IT WAS GOING TO BE NICE?
GLOBAL WARMING HON' SUDDEN METEOROLOGICAL SHIFTS. NO WARNING..
MADE UP THE FORECAST AGAIN HUH?
YOU BET.
DIDJA GET A MOVIE?
UH Huh. GIVEN YOUR RECENT ADVENTURES, I THOUGHT WE'D DO A PLANE CRASH THEME.... GOT "TURBULENCE" & "CASTAWAY"!
SPEAKING OF WHICH: HAVE YOU CALLED THAT GUY FROM THE PLANE?
I TOLD YOU BUCK, I NEVER GOT HIS NUMBER..
135
...IT'S NOT LIKE THERE WAS A LOTTA TIME FOR LONG GOODBYES...
SEXY GUY FROM SEAT 12A: ON SLIDE.
ETHAN: LEG STUCK IN HOLE IN BOTTOM OF PLANE
BRO! CALL ME!
WAIT- I DON'T KNOW YOUR NUMBER!
eric_orner@ethangreen.com
episode # 2001.15

VIEWPOINT

Aren't we all tired of the Cute Gay Guy?

by MARY I. WOODELL

Am I the only one out here who's offended? Maybe my neutral demographics (straight, white, married, female) allow me the luxury of vicarious touchiness—but really, isn't the Cute Gay Guy getting on anyone else's nerves?

The Cute Gay Guy in question, of course, is the one on every sitcom, in every movie—the stock character for the new millennium. He's just cute as a bug, with a fabulous wardrobe, a wicked wit—and no serious love interest in sight. Oh, he pines a little wistfully at times (when it suits the story line), but usually in commiseration with his best pal—who's, guess what, a girl! (Sigh! What a pity that he's, well, *you know*...)

What I notice about the Cute Gay Guy, other than the fact that he's everywhere, is that he's such a *mensch*—what a sweet guy! I also notice that the Cute Gay Guy comes in a couple of varieties, best exemplified by Will and Jack of "Will & Grace." Will, of course, is every mother's son; Just-Jack is every father's nightmare.

And taken together, they represent the full range of alternatives available to gay characters on network TV: the Dinner Queen and the Flamer. Each seems to have been cloned onto at least half a dozen primetime sitcoms.

In the good old days when men were men and took their bigotry straight, urban people of fashion used to have Dinner Jews; that is, persons of the Hebraic persuasion whom they could reasonably expect not to fart or slurp their soup at a social gathering. Dinner Jews were a handy thing to have, because they enabled their hosts to say blithely, "Of course, some of my best friends..." ("And yes, they are a bit clannish, but they have such a *marvelous* sense of humor.")

He's on every sitcom, in every movie—he's cute as a bug, with a fabulous wardrobe and a wicked wit. What a pity he's, well, *you know*...

I suppose the gay equivalent of the Dinner Jew would be a presentable man who can be relied on not to show up in a dress, make a pass at the hostess' husband, or talk about his recent breakup in mixed company.

Who would you rather be: the Flamer or the Dinner Queen? Or, more to the point, which is more offensive?

Hard to say; the Flamer is as overtly stereotypical as a modern day minstrel show. He does for gay men what Amos 'n' Andy did for African Americans, and what, in very recent memory, "The Nanny" did for Jewish women.

Why doesn't this piss people off? Sure, Sean Hayes is a talented actor and the writing is funny—but really, take a look at this guy! If I were a gay man, I'd be writing the networks.

The Dinner Queen is a sleeper. He's the Cute Gay Guy who nervous straight people want gay folks to be. Because he's utterly harmless—a euphemism, and a proxy, for sexless—and that's the way we like 'em.

It's okay if you're gay, so long as you're not, well, you know, *really* gay. And so long as you make up for it by being entertaining. Which, when you think about it, is a lot more insidious than slapstick.

Don't get me wrong: On balance I'm glad to see gay men and lesbians incorporated into TV's McCulture, the lowest common denominator of popular culture. That's progress, and it's real, and it's important. And I know that as someone outside the tribe, I see progress differently. Maybe the Flamer really is progress—he may be a cartoon, but at least he's there.

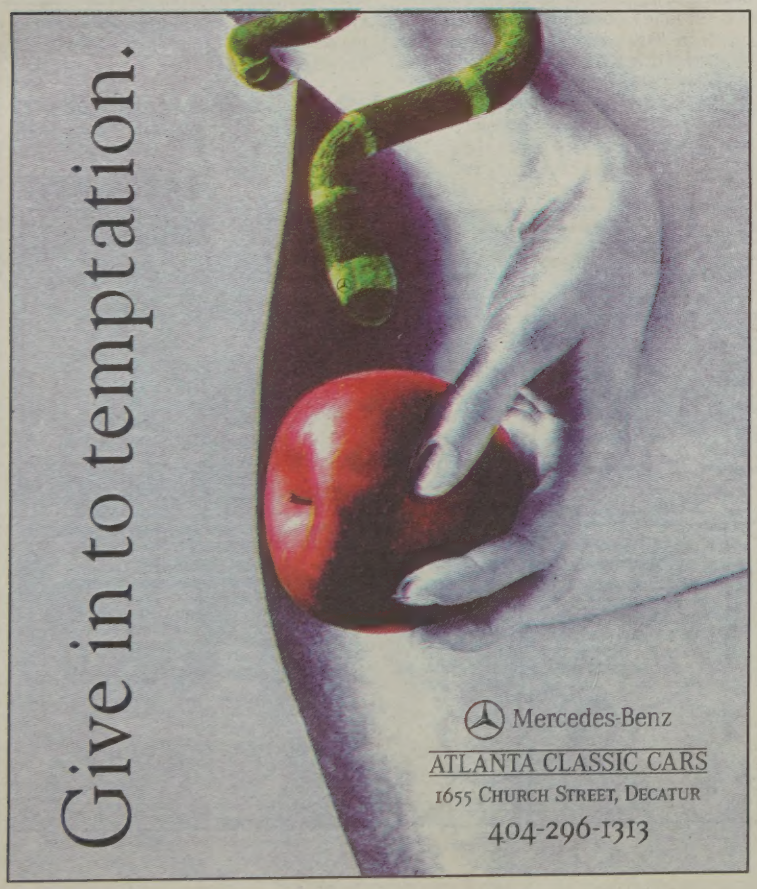
It's the Dinner Queen I worry about. Would the Cute Gay Guy be TV's fixture of the year if he weren't so white and cute and funny and sensitive? Or if he had a boyfriend? Or a son? I'm betting he wouldn't, any more than I'd expect a sitcom about lesbian social workers, or an ensemble drama set at Whitman-Walker, to be a major hit.

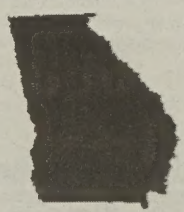
As someone who can remember Lucy and Ricky in their twin beds, I understand the concept of incremental progress. But I'd like to think that somewhere on the network's drawing board are plans for Will to find Mr. Right (or at least Mr. Oh All Right—this is, after all, a sitcom).

And wouldn't it be refreshing if he were just a little less, well, cute? How liberating this would be for all the other Cute Gay Guys struggling weekly to make their characters acceptable to the mainstream TV viewer.

More to the point: think what a relief it would be.

Mary I. Woodell is a Washington, DC-based consultant specializing in controversy management and risk communications; she can be reached through this publication.





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PLANT LIFE

How I shouldn't have spent my summer vacation

by DREW PLANT

As we reflect on the summer and on vacations taken and untaken, I wanted to share wisdom from my own summer outings. Whether you are headed to Branson, Mo., or the beach, I hope to help make your next trip the best it can be.

Start by trying not to complain about the child talking incessantly two rows back on the airplane; he will soon start whining, crying and screaming. You'll end up praying that it was just talking going on back there.

Ditto: Don't complain about the grown woman talking incessantly two rows back on the airplane; she will continue to do so for the rest of the flight, no matter what.

Feel free to not suffer in silence when the passenger seated next to you begins to pick his nose athletically. (And this was *before* takeoff.) Same for the passenger two rows forward who seems suddenly intent on combing out her cornrows. Just sing it out: *Foul call on the Public Beauty Moment!*

Never book a convertible with the rental car agency without asking what kind of car it will be. You will end up with something that will make Chitty Chitty Bang Bang seem like a supercharged musclecar. Saving grace: Pop in a Christina Aguilera CD or the "Throw Down" CD from Whitney's "The Greatest Hits" double pack and the car will instantly be cooler. (And you will look *so* good singing along!)

Do your best not to arrive in Fort Lauderdale during the Air & Sea Show. Straight people will be demonstrating their ability to get a lot of themselves into various small, loud automobiles. They will be, for the most part, loud, unwashed, unattractive, fat and annoying. I've even heard they recruit children and try to instigate the downfall of the modern gay family.

If you arrive at your guesthouse or at that can't-be-believed B&B and a porn movie is being filmed there, leave. Now. No questions. No illusions of the production company letting you act as a fluffer. Just go. You can rent "Tall Dark and Have Some" later if you just have to know what it was all about.

> Don't befriend the photographer visiting from Europe. He will not actually give you the film from the camera afterwards.

Remember not to put your jewelry in a toiletry bag on the back of the commode in your *faaa*-bu-lous mini suite: You will drop *something* in the john; then, you'll have to wear a ring from a less favorite husband.

Don't drink the entire jug of complimentary wine at the guesthouse. It is cheap and it is in a jug, and it's no way to win friends and be pretty. Make your own trip to the liquor store or send a trick. If all else fails, turn to that third must-have that you always pack: pharmaceuticals. (The other two are cosmetics and condoms.)

Take a vacation from political correctness rather than challenging the all-boy establishment's Twinkie employee on why girlz can't even visit this little slice of paradise. Hey, if the womyn he was escorting out wanted to see us naked, they wouldn't be lesbians and we manly things wouldn't have been traipsing around in front of one another half clad if we weren't all about being exclusive.

It's not a good idea to befriend the photographer from Europe. He will not actually give you the film from the camera afterwards. Nuf said.

The arbor overhead in the outdoor cocktail lounge will *not* support your weight. It looks like it will, but it won't. Besides, this is not junior high school gymnastics class; you haven't been that limber since the '80s and this isn't the best reason to hang upside down anyway.

Hint: If you do proceed and there is an inevitable crash and embarrassing moment, immediately proclaim the structure unsound, and loudly and publicly question the liability of such an obviously encouraging environment.

Further, even if it seems like a good idea at the time, don't tell gay guesthouse guests that your 4-year-old nephew constantly asks, "Are we on *bay*-cation yet?" while traveling. Soon, inebriated 40-year-old men will be repeating the question to you endlessly—for days—and thinking they're cute. Somehow, it's just not the same.

No matter how clever or cute it may seem in that moment, "just say no" instead of daring a humpy Latin muscleman stranger to spin you around over his shoulders. (Okay, the spinning part was his idea and he *was* bragging about how much he could lift!) Proof: There is one sissy Kenneth Cole sandal somewhere in the waters off Key West. Surprise reputation enhancer, if you do proceed: Everyone at the tea dance will think you know Mr. Humpy better than you do.

Bon voyage!

Drew Plant is an Atlanta-based writer who would like to know where you have been thrown out of or asked to leave. He can be reached at drewbob@mindspring.com.

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action! alert

by MIKE FLEMING

Oops, MPAA does it again

National movie ratings board changes promotional poster to downplay plot-central gay couple

The Motion Picture Association of America ordered a change in the promotional poster for "All Over the Guy," leaving the gay relationship of two major characters vague for the picture being released this month.

The MPAA apparently objected to the depiction of four pairs of feet dangling from the end of a bed, including two male pairs that were entangled to imply a gay couple, Don Roos, the movie's executive producer, told *Entertainment Weekly*.

The original photo for the poster was split to leave the straight couple uncensored, but the MPAA then squirmed over the tagline: "1 girl + 3 guys = 2 couples. You do the math."

The third try was the charm for Roos and the movie poster: The MPAA approved a poster with a line still separating the couples, the gay couple's feet rearranged and no reference to gender in the tagline "4 friends, 2 couples. Twice as much to lie about in the morning."

The MPAA, which rates most major movies and related materials released in the U.S., defended its moves to twice-reject the movie poster.

"Hardly a single promo piece goes to the public in its original form or concept," David Grant, an MPAA spokesman, told *Southern Voice*. "[The re-designed poster] is business as usual. Our board just thought the piece was too explicitly sexual for a general audience, so that's what we advised."

The organization was formed in 1968 in response to government censorship so the industry could police itself, Grant said. Decisions are based on opinions from a board of up to 15 parents whose only qualification is that they are raising school-aged children.

"All Over the Guy" is a new comedy about a straight couple who introduces their respective best friends, both gay men, for a date. The men eventually fall for each other as the plot winds its way toward a Hollywood happy ending.

The redone poster for "All Over the Guy" is another example of inconsistencies in the MPAA rating system when it comes to gay subjects, and how sex versus violence is handled, said Scott Seomin, entertainment media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a gay media watchdog.

"The film industry is not out of the woods yet," Seomin said. "And if the board is tougher on gay sex, they'll never come out and admit it. But there are a lot of incongruities in the ratings system."

Tracking the board's inconsistency and calling attention to perceived mistakes is difficult, Seomin said.

"There are no hard and fast rules that they follow to say 'this is in or this is out,'" he said.

The first version of a promotional poster for 'All Over the Guy' was too gay for the Motion Picture Association of America.

The MPAA board relies on brief, vague terms like "sexuality" and "sexual situations" to justify its ratings, and never includes "gay" in these descriptions, Seomin said.

The film's distributor, Lions Gate Films, also avoids the "g-word." The company's Web site doesn't mention the word "gay" in its description of the movie and calls the male couple in the film "two twenty-something opposites who are thrown together by their respective friends."

"We feel that whether a couple is gay or not shouldn't be an issue," said Laurie Antweather, national publicity manager for Lions Gate. "People are people and we think the characters and story are the issue, not the fact that they happen to be gay."

While any filmmaker or promotional company can reject the MPAA's advice, movies approved with an MPAA rating consistently gross better at the box office and get more theater showings than non-rated movies, Antweather said.

Asked why the company saw clear to follow the MPAA's advice in this case, Antweather said, "That's the movie business. [The MPAA] is all we have, and everyone follows their lead. While they have critics and they should, it's a system people trust in general."

ACTION! info

Motion Picture Association of America
15503 Ventura Blvd.
Encino, CA 91436
818-995-6600

Lions Gate Films
4553 Glencoe Ave., Suite 200
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
310-314-2000

"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER

"Most of my dates were on the gay side."

—Actress Debbie Reynolds on the rising young actors the studio arranged for her to be seen with following her success in "Singing In The Rain," to the Associated Press, Aug. 1

Debbie Reynolds

"GLAAD is steadfast in its belief that this film is dangerous, and Kevin is steadfast in believing it's a satire. The audience is not going to be separating satire from acceptable behavior when they're bombarded with constant 'fag jokes.'"

—Scott Seomin of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation on director Kevin Smith's new movie "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," to E! Online, Aug. 2

"Being gay or lesbian—a 'chi-chi' man/gal or a 'battyman'—is the ultimate sin in Jamaica, an island paradise so steeped in religion that it holds the *Guinness Book of World Records* title of having the most churches per square mile and where it is still legal to arrest two men caught having sex."

—The *Miami Herald*, Aug. 6

"I'm not going to charge people criminally for what they thought was a consensual act between adults. We do not send female officers into sports bars to come on to guys to see which ones respond and then arrest them. We should not be sending undercover decoys into homosexual-act areas to do exactly the same thing."

—Wayne County, Mich., Public Prosecutor Michael Duggan, Aug. 6

Howard Dean

"The institution of marriage has not collapsed. None of the dire predictions have come true. There was a big rhubarb, a lot of fear-mongering, and now people realize there was nothing to be afraid of."

—Vermont Gov. Howard Dean on the one-year anniversary of Vermont's civil unions "gay marriage" law, to the *New York Times*, July 31. Vermont officials have conducted 2,479 civil-union ceremonies, 502 among Vermonters and 1,977 among out-of-staters. Twice as many women as men have tied the knot.

"Gay men—not because they're gay but because they are men in an all-male subculture—are almost certainly more sexually active with more partners than most straight men. (Straight men would be far more promiscuous, I think, if they could get away with it the way gay guys can.) Many gay men value this sexual freedom more than the stresses and strains of monogamous marriage (and I don't blame them)."

—Andrew Sullivan writing in the *New Republic*, Aug. 13

"Ellen [DeGeneres] and I are very good friends, and yes, we definitely commiserated."

—Rocker Melissa Etheridge to Atlanta's *Etcetera* magazine, Aug. 3. Both women's lesbian lovers left them after deciding they preferred men.

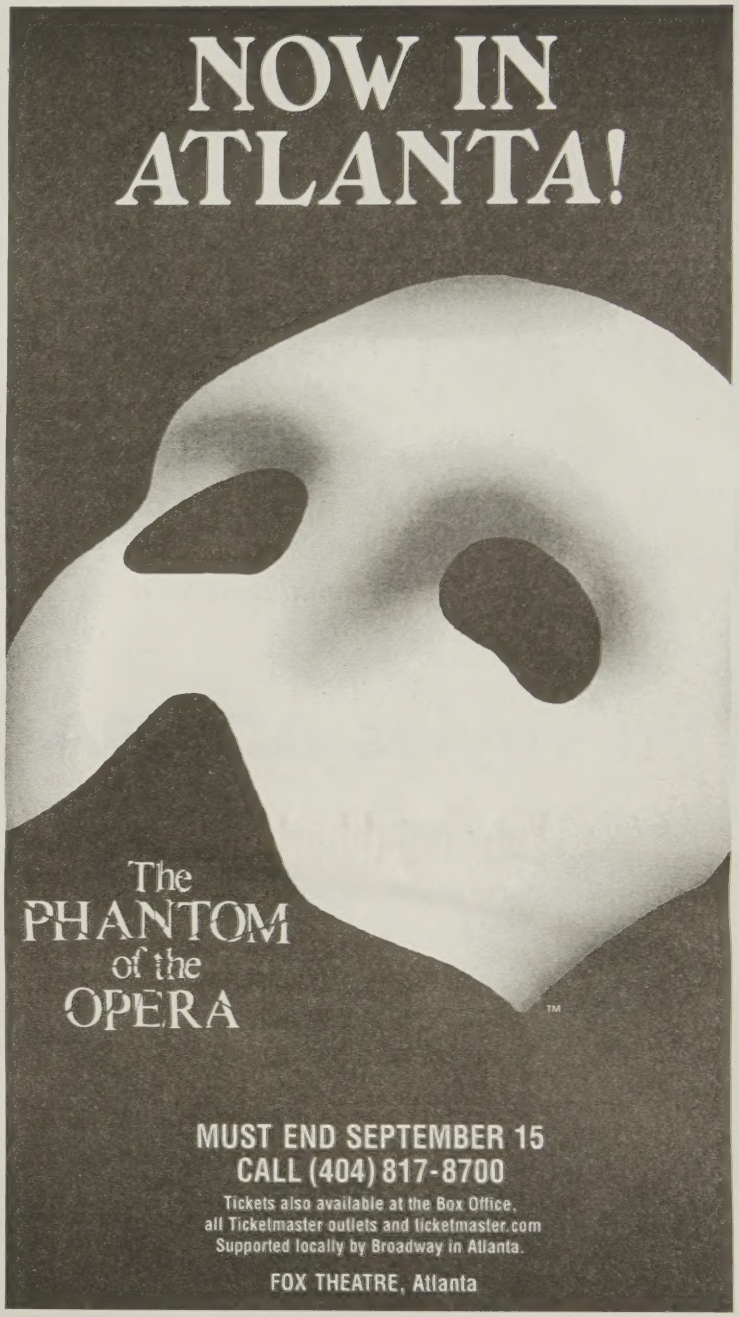
"A lot of male readers are looking for specific sexual content that's hard for me to understand, so I overcompensate for being female by running more gay male content than may be necessary."

—Eleanor Brown, editor of the Toronto gay newspaper *Xtra!*, to the gay press newsletter *Press Pass Q*, Aug. 13

"I've gotten a gazillion emails [since coming out publicly July 28] and it has blown me away. There has not been one punitive remark. It renders me almost speechless. But I wanted to make this statement. It was something I felt compelled to do, and everybody in the band has been so supportive. Now I can walk shoulder to shoulder in Boys Town in Chicago and say 'I'm openly gay like everyone else.' I feel like I've finally come home."

—Styx bass player Chuck Panozzo to Montreal's *Hour*, Aug. 9

Chuck Panozzo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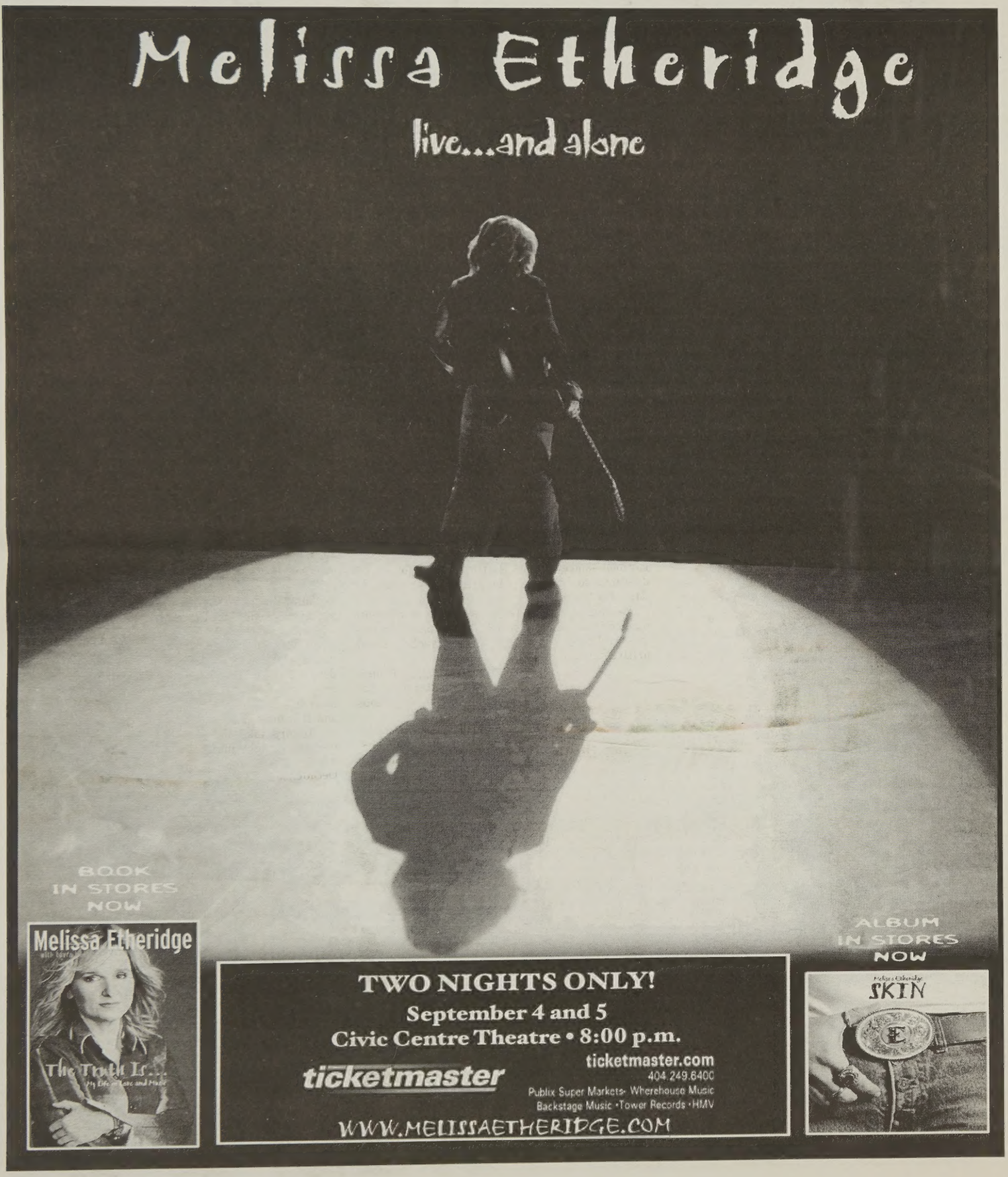

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Days of 'Decadence'

With traditions that get more outrageous every year, the four-day celebration dubbed "Gay Mardi Gras" steamrolls into its 30th year

by MIKE FLEMING

NEW ORLEANS—Every Labor Day weekend since 1973, a crowd of gay men casts off the shackles of civil politics and all aspects of political correctness to celebrate the wild side of their sexuality. The 30th annual **Southern Decadence** takes place Aug. 30-Sept. 3.

Not for the faint-hearted or morally shy, "SD 2001: Hollywood Menage à Trois" will host more than 50,000 gay men—and even a few lesbians and straights—who descend onto the streets of the French Quarter for four days of outrageous fun.

Wearing as little as the law will allow in the most outlandish fashion conceivable, people arrive for one reason: to party as if gay people will never be allowed to have fun again.

French Quarter streets will literally crawl with costumes that signify the most outrageous gay party in the South.

A usually reserved accountant may well don a nun-in-a-miniskirt costume, a man in his 60s could hearken Ben Hur, and others might wear just a g-string and a smile. Leather people will have their heyday in suitable attire. Everyone in between will conceive and execute their notion of what it is to be decadent.

Friends will pick costume themes to complement each other, and both individuals and groups have the option of interpreting the "Hollywood Menage à Trois" theme for 2001.

"There is no other place in the world where you see such a dense concentration of total gayness," says New Orleans resident Andy Stiles. Stiles will wear a "Chrissy Snow" costume while two of his friends round out the characters from the TV sitcom "Three's Company," in honor of this year's Southern Decadence theme.

While there are officially sanctioned events planned that include a raucous parade, parties at various nightclubs and contests of outrageous natures, the main event is socializing.

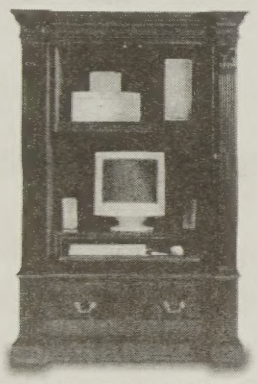
"Drinking and hooking up for sex are the two main activities," explains Joe Westmoreland, author of "Tramps Like Us," a gay odyssey that begins in the salacious 1970s in New Orleans and includes passages on the early days of Southern Decadence. "It's total New Orleans at its most fun and crazy—and at its most gay."

"Tramps Like Us" provides insight into the first few Southern Decadence events,

➢ Continued on Page 3

Flashy and outlandish costumes are the signature of a four-day event that sets the standard for raucous gay parties.

Leaves You Speechless...



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film clips

ABOUT ADAM (R) On the way to marrying Lucy (Kate Hudson), Adam (Stuart Townsend) charms her sisters (Frances O'Connor, Charlotte Bradley) and brother (Alan Maher). You may consider the way the last is handled something of a cop-out, but it's a fun scene that makes its point without upsetting anyone. Queer film historians can debate its message, though most will argue that a mental conquest is not as powerful as a physical one. Atlanta (Lefont Garden Hills Cinema).

THE CLOSET (PG-13) Daniel Auteuil plays Francois Pignon, an accountant who learns he's about to be laid off from his job at a factory that makes rubber products, including condoms. Belone (Michael Aumont), a gay neighbor, suggests that the company would be afraid to fire Pignon if they thought he was gay, because they could be perceived as homophobic. Gerard Depardieu stars as a homophobe trying to mend his ways. Area theaters.

THE DEEP END In this emotional, nail-biting noir effort, harried mother Tilda Swinton covers up for her gay teen son when she discovers the dead body of his lover. But how long can she keep it up when a black-mailer arrives? New Orleans (Canal Place Cinemas).

HEDWIG & THE ANGRY INCH The "anatomically incorrect rock odyssey" tells the story of a transsexual aspiring to stardom. The character Hedwig is an East German who had a sex-change operation (badly executed, leaving the "angry inch" of the title) so he could marry an American soldier and move to the States, just before the Berlin Wall fell. Now she's touring the U.S. with a rock band and seeking revenge on Tommy Gnosis, her former teenage lover who stole her material and used it to reach the top of the charts. Openly gay actor John Cameron Mitchell plays Hedwig. Atlanta (UA Tara, 404-634-6288), New Orleans (Canal Place Cinemas).

LOST & DELIRIOUS Openly bisexual, Quebecois director Lea Pool's first English-language film examines life and love within a posh, all-girls school. New Orleans (Canal Place Cinemas)

MOULIN ROUGE (PG-13) A postmodern musical set in a Paris nightclub circa 1900. David Wenham plays a gay lyricist. Area theaters.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW Every Friday at midnight. Atlanta (LeFont Plaza, 1049 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-873-1939). Also Sat., midnight. Raises funds for AIDS Survival Project. Marietta, Ga. (Blackwell Theater, 3378 Canton Rd. 770-428-2617), New Orleans (615 Toulouse St. 504-565-5400), Covington, La. (Star Theatre, 332 N. New Hampshire).

SONGCATCHER (PG-13) The story is of a woman who ventures into Appalachia (filming was done around Asheville) in 1907 to study the music of the region. Musicologist Dr. Lily Penleric moves in with her little sister Elna (Jane Adams), who runs a school with Harriet Tolliver (E. Katherine Kerr), her "friend and colleague." Asheville (Skyland Arts Cinema), Atlanta (UA Tara), Knoxville (Regan Downtown West), Nashville (Regal Green Hills).

SUMMER CLASSIC FILM SERIES Alabama Theater thru Aug 27. Birmingham (256-251-0408 or www.alabamatheater.com).

TOMB RAIDER (PG-13) Stars openly bisexual actor Angelina Jolie as an adventurer. Area theaters.

THE TRIO Two gay men raise a daughter in this German film. When one dad dies, sexy Rudolph joins the clan. Friday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m. Lesbian & Gay Community Center of New Orleans, 2114 Decatur St. 504-945-1103

'Songcatcher' tells the story of a musicologist who visits her sister, a lesbian, in Appalachia.

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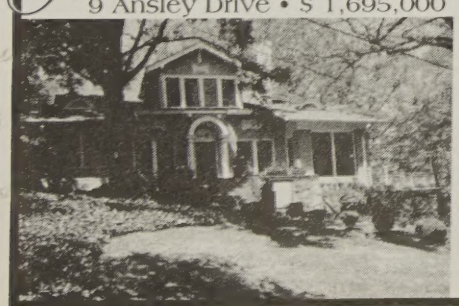

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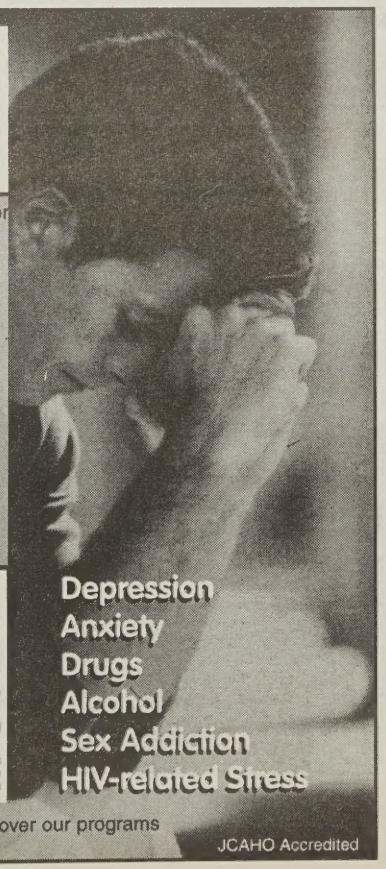

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on screen

by STEVE WARREN

A mother's caring

Remake of 1949's 'Reckless Moment' tells a story of murder and a teenage boy who is blackmailed for his relationship with an older man

THE DEEP END is a delightfully slow-twisting and contemporary melodrama with roots in the 1940s. The 1947 novel, "The Blank Wall" by Elisabeth Sanxay Holding, and the 1949 film version, Max Ophuls' "The Reckless Moment," were about a mother protecting her daughter by covering up the death of the man the girl was involved with.

Writer-producer-directors Scott McGehee and David Siegel update the story by multiplying dollar amounts by 10 and changing the 17-year-old girl into a 17-year-old boy, still involved with an older man.

Although he's not out to his mother, Margaret (the amazing Tilda Swinton), Beau (Jonathan Tucker) has been seeing sleazy, 30-year-old Reno clubowner Darby Reese (Josh Lucas).

When Margaret finds Darby's body the morning after he fought with Beau she jumps to conclusions, then springs into action. Switching into Supermom mode, she disposes of the body.

Margaret's everyday life is a quite a row to hoe. Raising three children while their Navy father is absent and virtually unreachable, thrown in with a murder cover-up and its aftermath, must be worked in with carpooling, laundry, meals, Little League, ballet lessons and water polo practice, as well as caring for a father-in-law (Peter Donat).

Darby's body is found and Margaret is approached by blackmailer Alek Spera (Goran Visnjic), who demands $50,000 for a videotape of Beau and Darby having sex.

Jason Mewes is Jay and Kevin Smith plays Silent Bob in 'Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back.'

INFO

'The Deep End'
★★1/2
Directed by Scott McGehee and David Siegel
Starring Tilda Swinton, Goran Visnjic, Jonathan Tucker
Queer Quotient: A real PFLAG movie about a mother trying to protect her gay son after his lover's been murdered

'Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back'
★★★
Directed by Kevin Smith
Starring Jason Mewes, Kevin Smith, Shannon Elizabeth
Queer Quotient: Tons of jokes about queers, either hilarious or highly offensive, depending on which side of GLAAD's fence you're on.

Alek's second visit to Margaret's house is a brilliant scene that justifies the coincidence that sets it up. It's the turning point of the story, which continues its slow twisting until it turns a little silly as it's wrapped up too neatly.

Only at the end do you have to turn off your intellect and accept things on a purely emotional basis. The widescreen photography of Giles Nuttgens, Best Cinematography winner at Sundance, is arguably the film's most impressive aspect.

While some elements in "The Deep End" will resonate with homophobic viewers, neither the intent nor the overall impact is homophobic. It's a movie to be shown at PFLAG meetings, even if Fred Phelps and Dr. Laura would like to pull 10 seconds of it out of context for their own purposes.

Kevin Smith, whose film "Chasing Amy" reversed the usual trend of a lesbian turning straight at the end, is an irreverent, often funny guy who makes fun of everything. His last film, "Dogma," pissed off the Catholic Church, even though it was deeply religious.

His new one, **JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK**, has aroused GLAAD's ire, even though it is gay-friendly in ways queer filmmakers wouldn't dare. The most amazing thing about this movie, aside from how damn funny it is, is its straight characters' obsession with gay sex.

There's more talk about cocksucking and ass-fucking than you'll hear in some entire queer festivals. The straight boys may tease each other about it but they don't put us down in the process, and in a really radical scene George Carlin says there's nothing wrong with giving blowjobs: "It's the new millennium. Gay, straight—it's all the same."

Jay (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob (writer-director Smith) are the Bing Crosby and Bob Hope of the 21st century, on the "Road to Hollywood" in a movie the "South Park" kids might have made if you turned them loose with a camera. "Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back" is sloppy, juvenile, dirty-mouthed and dirty-minded. No respectable critic would admit to enjoying it.

But it also makes fun of its own shortcomings and has some remarkable people mocking themselves and their films (including James Van Der Beek calling Jason Biggs on his homophobia). So maybe it's a brilliant satire disguised as a silly, offensive stoner comedy, in which case no self-respecting critic can pan it for fear of being the last one on the bandwagon.

"He loves the cock!" is a line crying out to be emblazoned on a T-shirt. Who's going to be the first to market them?

Tilda Swinton and Goran Visnjic star in 'The Deep End.'

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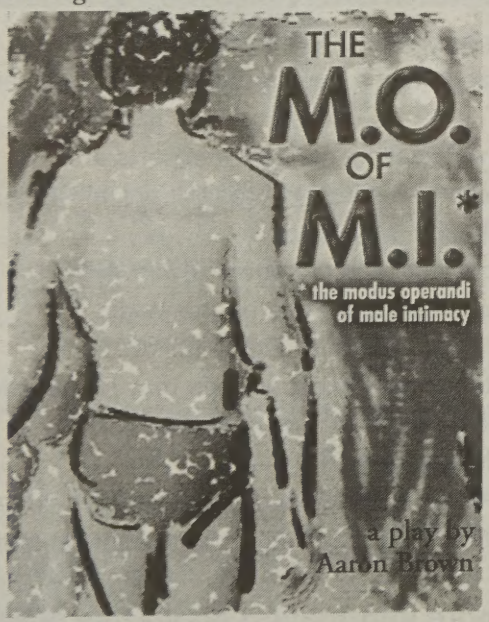

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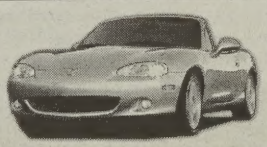

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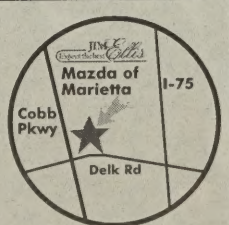

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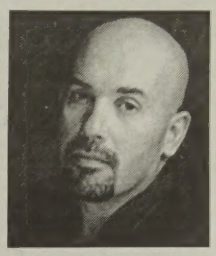

by PATRICK ARENA

Infamy achieved in passing

Acclaimed but little-known singer reaches heights in death she never knew in life

You only need to hear a few words sung by **EVA CASSIDY** to know that you are hearing a voice that is in the realm of the mystic. The intimacy that she creates with her voice hits one in the chest and resonates in the chambers of the heart.

Sounding for all the world like a mixture of sun and honey melting together, hers is a voice that can wrap you in warm blankets or throw you to wild heights. Her album **SONGBIRD** is currently gathering momentum with the release of "Over the Rainbow" as a single. It has already reached number one in England.

Cassidy could have gone for a "Battle of the Divas" with any of today's most popular singers and would have wiped the floor with them.

That, however, is something that will never happen. Cassidy can't.

She passed away from melanoma at the age of 33 in 1996. It's hard to believe her voice has been silenced by the tragedy of an untimely death. Posthumously, she has become famous. "Nightline" profiled her. Her music has been heralded as a monster hit in England. *People* and *Entertainment Weekly* have told her story.

"Songbird" is a compilation of cuts from three of her albums. If you listen only to one song, make it "Autumn Leaves." In the first three words she exposes her ability to shatter defenses and reach the core of meaning.

She is a rare rock/jazz influenced singer who sings the words for their dramatic readings as well as their musical sound. On "Autumn Leaves" she melts the melody down with rock embellishments, all the while digging deeper into the poignancy of the lyric. It's a masterly turn.

Cassidy fused material from her love of folk music, gospel, rock and jazz. On **EVA BY HEART** she rocks out on the old spiritual "Wade in the Water." It's a performance that is so ebullient that she transfers the spirit to you.

Without missing a beat she's on to the dreadfully scary "Blues in the Night" by Harold Arlen. This song has become such a cliché over the years because so many bad singers have tortured us with it.

"My Mama Done Tol' Meee!" is a lesson in how to make a song fresh again. She accomplishes this with her ability to leap from low octave to high octave within the same phrase of music.

LIVE AT BLUES ALLEY is an album Cassidy wasn't sure she wanted to release. She felt it had too many mistakes on it.

Despite her misgivings, it is heaven. Her live performance mixture of jazz, folk and spiritual material works like it's all cut from the same cloth. Cassidy is one of those few singers who never has a false moment and seemingly never made a bad choice for her voice.

Every line, every bar of music is clean and perfect even though it feels like it's spontaneous.

In all of the hype about her, no writer has been quite able to give us a clear picture of Eva Cassidy's motivations. One thing is certain: she was determined not to sell out by doing pop music.

She had devoted fans, friends, and musicians but in the end her voice and the way she used it carried her to the heights of fame.

The relevance for an audience today is that she will always remain the young Eva who had the calling. She will remain Dorothy Gale, rather than Judy Garland. She will always be the child of song.

Listen to her sing even just a few bars of music and you hear her graceful musicianship, respect for music and lyrics and the love of singing.

INFO

Eva Cassidy
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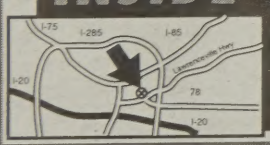

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tv & radio CALENDAR

saturday, aug. 25

BIG DADDY When Adam Sandler adopts a young boy, his two gay friends help with the parenting duties. HBO at 9 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS The live championship match of the Pilot Pen tournament in New Haven, Conn. CBS at 1 p.m.

WUSA SOCCER The live inaugural title game in Foxboro, Mass. TNT at 2 p.m.

SPIN CITY Stuart's sexual orientation comes into question. UPN at 6:30 p.m.

UNPLUGGED R.E.M. and front-man Michael Stipe, a self-proclaimed "queer artist," perform. MTV at 7:30 p.m.

TO WONG FOO, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR Three drag queens (Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, and John Leguizamo) transform a small town when their car breaks down en route to a drag competition. Encore at 8 p.m.

BIG BROTHER 2 See how gay cast member Bunky fares. CBS at 9 p.m.

MAD TV This episode satires openly gay singer Elton John. Fox at 11 p.m.

BEYOND CHANCE A show about supernatural and miraculous experiences hosted by Melissa Etheridge. Lifetime at 11 p.m.

sunday, aug. 26

THREE TO TANGO A straight architect (Matthew Perry) pretends to be gay in order to get closer to the woman of his dreams. Cinemax at 8:50 a.m.

WNBA 2001 ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP A recap of the first round of the playoffs and a preview of the conference finals. NBC at 1:30 p.m.

WNBA PLAYOFF Game 2 of the conference final. NBC at 2 p.m. and ESPN2 at 5 p.m.

HAIRSPRAY Divine stars as Ricki Lake's mother in this satire of life in the 1950s. Directed by openly gay filmmaker John Waters. Comedy Central at 2 p.m.

CRY-BABY John Waters directs this movie, in which Johnny Depp plays a bad boy rocker who defies a conservative town. Encore at 4:30 p.m.

LOS BELTRAN Spanish-language sitcom featuring a gay couple as the next-door neighbors. Telemundo at 8 p.m.

MADONNA DROWNED WORLD TOUR The Material Mom's debut tour after eight years is being televised. HBO at 9 p.m.

QUEER AS FOLK Brian discovers that Ted has put him in charge of his living. Showtime at 10 p.m.

LEAP YEARS An innovative series that simultaneously looks at a group of friends, one of whom is gay, in the past, present, and future. Showtime at 10:50 p.m.

SOUTH PARK BIGGER, LONGER, AND UNCUT This hysterically foul-mouthed animated musical features Satan and Saddam Hussein as lovers and a musical number from Big Gay Al. The Movie Channel at 12:45 a.m.

THIS AMERICAN LIFE Ira Glass' radio showcase of America's weird and wonderful regularly features gay humor writer David Sedaris. WABE 90.1 FM at 4 p.m. **Atlanta.**

monday, aug. 27

THE VIEW Will & Grace star Eric McCormack will join the ladies' discussion. ABC at 11 a.m.

U.S. OPEN The Grand Slam event of the tennis world. USA this week at 11 a.m.

ALL MY CHILDREN This long-running serial now features Bianca, the lesbian daughter of legendary Erica Kane (Susan Lucci). ABC weekdays at 1 p.m.

MADONNA THE GIRLIE SHOW LIVE DOWN UNDER 1994 A repeat of the event, in honor of Madonna's latest tour. VH1 at 6 p.m.

SIMPSONS Homer fears a gay man's influence on Bart. FOX at 6 p.m.

MADONNA DROWNED WORLD TOUR See Sunday's listing. HBO at 8 p.m.

WNBA PLAYOFF Game 3 (if necessary) of the conference final series. ESPN2 at 10 p.m.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER Crooner kd lang plays the boss of a secret government agent (Ewan McGregor) who is obsessed with a sexy serial killer (Ashley Judd). Encore at 10:15 p.m.

SANDRA BERNHARD EXPERIENCE Debut of the bisexual comedian's talk show, which includes an interview with rocker Chrissie Hynde. A&E weeknights at 11 p.m.

SPYDER GAMES This serial both ridicules the soap genre and revels in it. Look for Ivan (Byron Field), a closeted gay newlywed. MTV weeknights at 11 p.m.

UNDRESSED This soap-opera like series follows three young couples, often including gay and bisexual characters. MTV weeknights at 11:30 p.m.

C1TV Cable show devoted to gay men and lesbians. Airing censored episodes of "Queer as Folk." Cable 9, 16, 24, or 25 at 11 p.m. **Atlanta.**

tuesday, aug. 28

COMMITTED This comedy of an impulsive New Yorker (Heather Graham) who is overly committed to her husband includes a lesbian couple (Clea Duvall is one). Starz at 4:05 p.m.

FRASIER The gay station manager thinks Frasier wants to date him. UPN at 7 p.m.

BOYS DON'T CRY Hilary Swank won an Oscar for her portrayal of transgender murder victim Brandon Teena. Cinemax at 8 p.m.

BIG BROTHER 2 The second episode of the week. CBS at 9 p.m.

MADONNA DROWNED WORLD TOUR See Sunday's listing. HBO at 10 p.m.

QUEER AS FOLK See Sunday listing. Showtime at 11 p.m.

wednesday, aug. 29

U.S. OPEN Early-round play in the Grand Slam event in Flushing Meadow, N.Y. USA at 7 p.m.

thursday, aug. 30

DARLING LILI Late gay actor Rock Hudson and Julie Andrews star in this musical about entertainers who get mixed up with World War I spies. American Movie Classics at 10 a.m.

WNBA FINALS Game 1 of the championship series. ESPN2 at 8 p.m.

WILL & GRACE Karen is hot for Jack's juicy novel-in-progress. NBC at 9 p.m.

BIG BROTHER 2 Root for Bunky as the eighth housemate is evicted. CBS at 9 p.m.

LEAP YEARS See Sunday's listing. Showtime at 11 p.m.

ELECTION Black comedy about the race for high school class president; one of the students running for office is a lesbian. Showtime at midnight.

GAR WILLIAMS SHOW Gar reveals the truth behind gay old Hollywood. New Orleans Cable Access Channel 78 at 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. **New Orleans.**

MOUTH OF THE SOUTH LIVE! Peg's weekly cocktail party—taped live at the Metro on Mondays. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24 at 11 p.m. and Sat at 10 p.m. **Atlanta.**

friday, aug. 31

WOMEN'S GOLF Live first-round play in the State Farm Rail Classic in Springfield, Ill. ESPN2 at 1 p.m.

PLAYER'S JOURNAL A profile of WNBA star Yolanda Griffith. Lifetime at 5 p.m.

U.S. OPEN See Wednesday's listing. USA at 7 p.m.

CONAN O'BRIEN Lesbian icon Lucy Lawless takes a seat on Conan's couch. NBC at 12:35 a.m.

DEAUNDRA PEEK'S TV SHOW People TV, cable channel 12 or 24, 11:30 p.m. and Sat at 11 p.m. **Atlanta.**

—Compiled Kara Fox and Erin O'Briant

on the air

by BRIAN MOYLAN

The loud mouth returns

Sandra Bernhard flaps her lips in word and song on A&E's 'The Sandra Bernhard Experience'

College radio stations have always been a great venue for hip people. Think of all those kids who know that they want to do something cool and different, but they're not quite sure what format to use, so they're just making it up as they go along. This college radio ethic can make for staggering success of well-intended failure. This same ethic seems to be the prevailing philosophy behind **THE SANDRA BERNHARD EXPERIENCE,** which airs on A&E Aug. 27-31.

This new *experience* is the latest project by the bisexual comedian—and a continuation of "Sandradio," a regular Internet broadcast Bernhard did last year. "Experience" is part variety show, part talk show, part music show, and all chaos—but chaos in a good way.

Bernhard explains that she'll have several guests on each episode and they'll just come and talk about what they want to. Not about new movies, television shows, and books—but things they care about.

To help her along the way, Bernhard has enlisted the aid of her long-time music director and friend Mitch Kaplan and a new co-host—Sara Switzer. Kaplan, as he has done during most of Bernhard's projects over the years, mostly keeps his mouth shut and lets his fingers do the talking as he accompanies Bernhard. Switzer strangely does the same thing.

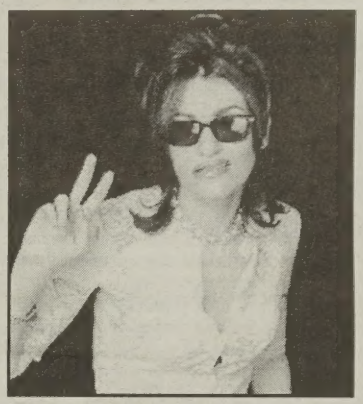
Bernhard explains that Switzer is there to keep Bernhard on track and to add insight. Switzer, however, barely speaks a word during the whole show, and is a force too meek to keep the formidable Bernhard on task. Regardless, Bernhard is at her best when she is rambling, ranting, and spewing her philosophy at a synapse-popping velocity. So why does the show need Switzer?

The answer is it doesn't. Switzer is the awkward third wheel that keeps Bernhard from getting too intimate with her guests—and amounts to little more than timid dead weight.

On the first episode, Bernhard talks with Edie Falco, who plays Carmella Soprano on "The Sopranos", and Steve Van Zandt, a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band who also has a role on "The Sopranos."

Bernhard works hard at trying to get the best out of both actors, but they don't bite. The chaotic formula finally works when Bernhard talks to her friend Chrissie Hynde from the long-successful rock group The Pretenders.

The two talk about how they met on the Lillith Fair tour and some wacky things they did on the tour, making stops to discuss feminism, modern pop music and how men make better guitar players than women.



Sandra Bernhard returns to the boob tube with 'The Sandra Bernhard Experience' on A&E.

Though Switzer, like the new initiate to the sorority of cool, remains silent the whole time, the conversation between the two women is electrifying and exciting. They are comfortable enough with each other to speak their minds and have enough respect for each other to let the other speak.

Their questions to one another can't have been pre-written, like the ones Jay Leno or David Letterman often deliver seem to be, because this is not the kind of superficial conversation one will find on those shows. This is a conversation between two intelligent, successful, and opinionated women speaking about things they care about and exchanging ideas.

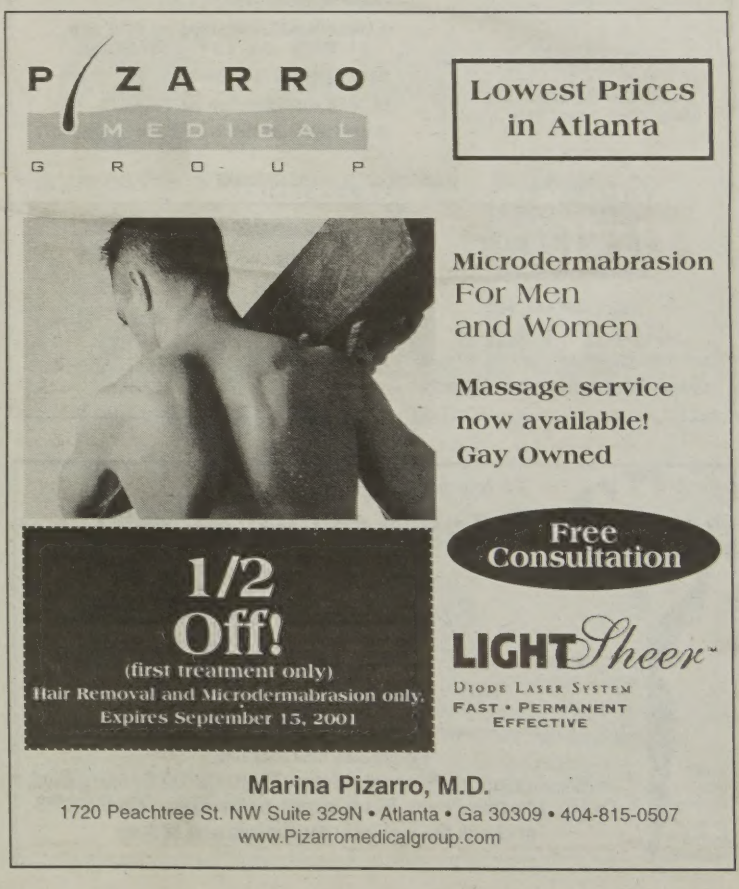
This is an intelligent conversation that can't be planned for the camera, but just has to happen spontaneously, and this is where the college-rock phenomenon is at its best. Though the viewer has to sit through two almost tedious interviews before they get the delight of seeing this one, taking the gamble is worth it for the rewards.

The last segment of the show features Bernhard and Hynde singing a duet of The Pretender's hit "I'll Stand By You." During the song, Hynde says, "This is corny, but it works." Bernhard replies, "The world could use a little corny from the likes of you and me."

Bernhard is right about that, and she is the perfect host to make this chaotic formula a hit.

INFO

'The Sandra Bernhard Experience'
Aug. 27 to 31
11 p.m.
A&E
www.aande.com



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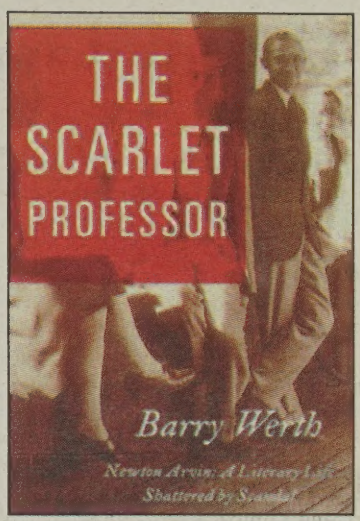
Destroyed by the times

Sexual scandal rocked the life and career of writer Newton Arvin

by J.S. HALL



If you've never heard of Newton Arvin, don't feel too bad; nowadays only a few people know of him, and mostly that's due to his two-year relationship with a young Truman Capote. But for a good part of his life, Arvin was a celebrated reviewer and critic, and a pioneer in the field of American literature studies. He was also at the heart of one of the darkest moments and dirtiest secrets in Northampton, Mass.

On Sept. 2, 1960, plainclothes police officers raided Arvin's cramped attic apartment, illegally searching for, and seizing, a variety of homoerotic photographs, magazines and movie reels. Faced with the prospect of up to five years in jail, Arvin named names of other gay men—friends and colleagues—who possessed similar materials. The subsequent scandal brought shame to Smith College (where Arvin had taught for over 30 years), and ruin to those involved.

A Northampton resident, Barry Werth first wrote about this shameful incident in the *New Yorker* and has expanded that piece into a full-length biography called **THE SCARLET PROFESSOR**.

Werth spent two years living in Arvin's former apartment while writing it. The result is a surprisingly readable account of what it was like to live as a closeted gay man in a small New England town during some of the 20th century's most repressive and conservative decades.

Physically unprepossessing, Frederic Newton Arvin possessed a keenly analytical intellect, which he soon realized would be stifled in his native Indiana, so he resolved to head for the East Coast for his higher education.

While he had hoped to settle in New York, he found himself temperamentally unsuited for life in the Big Apple and eventually settled in Northampton for a "temporary" teaching assignment at Smith College that would last for 37 years.

Like most writers, Arvin couldn't sustain himself on his work alone, and had to support his efforts with a job he found draining and distasteful—this conflict would plague him continually and doubtless contributed to his fits of depression. A seven-year sham marriage to a former Smith student didn't help matters either; Arvin's treatment of his wife veered from cruel to wheedling and apologetic. Both spent time in mental institutions as a result of their union.

Only at the writers' colony Yaddo could Arvin truly be himself and peep from his carefully maintained closet. There, he began a lifelong friendship with Southern author Carson McCullers and enacted a two-year relationship with young, flamboyant Truman Capote (who would declare, "Newton was my Harvard") that encompassed the happiest, most productive period of Arvin's life. Ultimately, their vastly different personalities and lifestyles drove them apart, but they remained steady friends for the remainder of their lives.

A critic of Hawthorne, Whitman, Melville and Emerson, Arvin found something of each that resonated within him. Much later in life, Arvin's studies of Emerson's limitless optimism apparently inspired him to satiate his thwarted sexual desires more fully and openly (although this could've just been desperation overwhelming years of repression), which ultimately led to his arrest and punishment for his secrets.

Occasionally the stretching from a magazine article to full-fledged biography shows rather noticeably—especially at the end, when an ill Arvin had retreated from worldly events. Barry Werth has created a compelling, absorbing recount of one of our country's more shameful moments of hysteria. His recreation of events will transport readers to times when friends knew as little as possible about each other, lest they be forced to testify against them.

It was a time when fireplaces burned with illicit "erotica"—the mere possession of which could send a person to prison—and a time when a puritanical postmaster made it his holy mission to stamp out smut.

It may not exactly be light reading, but the fact Northampton now boasts such a strong gay presence makes it an even more important read and perhaps a cautionary tale against those in power who would curtail our personal liberties in the name of family values.

INFO

'The Scarlet Professor: A Literary Life Shattered by Scandal'
by Barry Werth
Doubleday, 336 pages, $26

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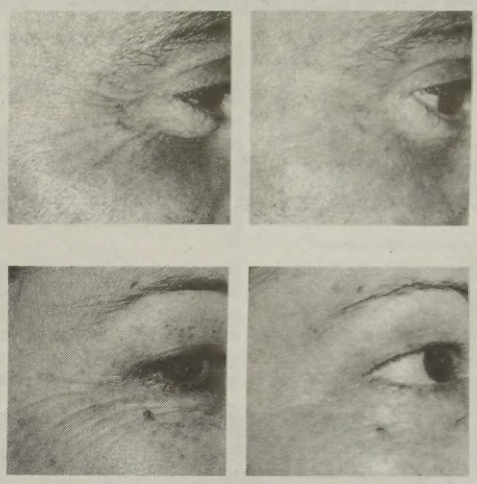

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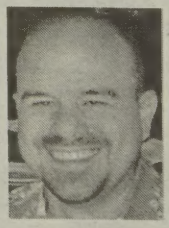

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TRAVEL TIPS FOR THOSE OUT & ABOUT

by ANDREW COLLINS

Carry me back to old Virginny!

While the **TIDEWATER** section of coastal **VIRGINIA** conjures up images of boat-building and military bases, visitors here tend to come away most impressed with gentle **NORFOLK**'s beautifully revitalized downtown. It comes as no surprise that parts of the area have been brought back to life by the many lesbians and gay men who have bought and restored homes here.

In the neighboring city of **VIRGINIA BEACH**, the gay scene is less pronounced, but sunbunnies appreciate the attractively developed beachfront. Across **Chesapeake Bay**, tiny **CAPE CHARLES** is rapidly becoming the gay B&B hub of the state.

Technically, Tidewater—known also as **Hampton Roads**—comprises the area where the James, York, and Elizabeth rivers flow into the lower tip of Chesapeake Bay. There are several cities, but Norfolk (pop. 235,000) and Virginia Beach (pop. 425,000) are the best-known and the most appealing to vacationers; they also contain most of coastal Virginia's gay bars, eateries, bookstores and related businesses.

There are no specifically gay-oriented accommodations in these two cities, but in both you'll find some hip and mainstream hotels that draw their share of same-sex couples.

Among Norfolk bars, the **Wave** is close to **Ghent**, making it a hit with guppies, students and the like. Downtown, the male-oriented **Garage** lies steps from numerous restaurants and hotels and offers a great happy hour.

Hosting all-girl bands and holding cool theme events (oldies night, retro), the **Hershee Bar** is coastal Virginia's most happening lesbian hangout.

Of course, plenty of visitors to quiet, couples-oriented **Cape Charles** want nothing to do with the big cities across the bay, which feel light years away in many respects. Nevertheless, and especially if you have more than a of couple days, it's not farfetched to stay up here and make one or two day trips south to see the sights, gay bars, and shops of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

There are a few handsome yet reasonably priced B&Bs here—three of them gay-owned and operated. A breezy, sun-filled 1912 house with high ceilings, the **Sea Gate** looms over lush gardens along a tree-shaded street.

A few blocks up inland, the meticulously maintained **Wilson Lee House** makes for an urbane yet tranquil retreat.

Norfolk's beautifully revitalized downtown has been brought back to life by the many gay men and lesbians who have bought and restored property here.

INFO

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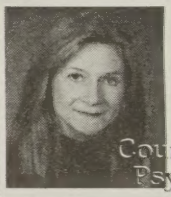
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New Orleans annual gay party steeped in tradition, booze, sex

➢ Continued from Page 25

describing them as small but festive parades that swelled as the group passed tourists. People fell in line behind them, wooed by their mass mania.

"When we got to [Jewel's bar on Decatur Street, now defunct], it was so packed you could hardly move," the novel reads. "Guys climbed on wooden beer cans and stripped to the music. A guy grabbed my crotch...."

That spirit still dominates the festivities, but visitors should note that, while the New Orleans Police Department does allow the drinking portion of activities to take place on the streets, public sex is still forbidden and strictly prosecuted—even during Southern Decadence, and even if you've heard differently.

"As few as three years ago, it was not uncommon to see inappropriate activity right on any given street corner," Sal Hoffmeir, a 15-year Southern Decadence frolicker recalls. "But as the event draws larger crowds and more attention, the police have cracked down. You're still likely to see some public sex because people are caught up in the moment, or too messed up on drugs or alcohol, but those people are more likely now to end up at [Orleans Parish] Central Lockup."

Costumed revelers will likely not be as well-received at the downtown jail facility as they will on French Quarter streets, Hoffmeir added.

With modest beginnings as a 1972 going away party with a relative handful of local revelers on Barracks Street, Southern Decadence has grown during the past 30 years to include tens of thousands of people from all over the world. New Orleans residents now regularly call the event "Gay Mardi Gras" due to the turnout, the costumes and the festive spirit.

Decidedly a far cry from a "family" activity in the traditional sense of the word, Decadence is not just a street party.

A parade of thousands is the high point of the weekend and begins at the original Barracks Street location near the corner of Royal Street. Where the entourage goes from there is not simply a secret, but a mystery. The grand marshal or marshals—this year there are three: Bianca Del Rio, Rick Thomas and Pat "Estelle" Ritter—decide the route and lead the parade to surprise locations in and around the French Quarter.

One year, the parade interrupted services at St. Louis Cathedral during Mass. Another time, the crowd toured the Moonwalk and a view of the Mississippi River. This year's parade route is anybody's guess but sure to be memorable and an attention-grabber.

Don't-miss events begin on Thursday night: The Bear Decadence Run pre-registration is at Rawhide that night with DJ Rob Richardson. According to Manager Barth Cox, "the cruising never stops."

Club 735 will host a different themed dance party on each of the four Southern Decadence nights, beginning with Thursday's Dungeons and Drag Queens.

Friday night, the weekend rolls into full swing: Leather Decadence 2001, the "world's largest leather block party" will be held at the Phoenix nightspot, and Bourbon Pub & Parade will join the fun by welcoming porn superstar Chi-Chi La Rue and her boys for a live stage performance.

Saturday will see Deca-Dance XIII at Bourbon Pub, along with the Mr. Louisiana Leather 2002 contest at a site to be announced. Twirl Girl VII will be at Oz that night with New Orleans' favorite gay circuit DJ Joe Gauthreaux leading the revelry into the longest day and crowning glory of Southern Decadence: Sunday.

The gay Krewe of Petronius will host the third annual Hooker's Ball on Sunday, while younger gay men may choose to visit the second annual Scarlet Ball, a huge alternative dance party with four DJs at Club Ampersand.

The biggest event this year is the first full-blown Decadence circuit party. Dubbed "Submission," the party is masterminded by circuit guru Johnny Chisholm on Sunday night.

"Submission" will be too big for any Quarter venue, so it will be held at Jeff Municipal Auditorium, within walking distance of the rest of the Southern Decadence activities. Famed circuit DJ Manny Lehman will spin the latest singles for a huge and outrageous crowd until the wee hours of Labor Day, then the after-party will be at Oz nightclub well into morning sunlight. Sunglasses are suggested.

In addition to the large dance clubs, which will have a different theme even on the slower nights, every gay bar in town will play host to Southern Decadence celebrants with expanded activities including 24-hour male dancers, drink specials, drag shows and theme parties.

"Whatever your favorite bar is, they're definitely doing something special for Decadence," Hoffmeir says with a laugh. "In fact, the whole city is something special for Decadence. It's not to be believed until you've experienced it with your own eyes—and other parts of your anatomy."

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4 dr., Briarritz blue, 34k miles, auto., prem. pack, p.seats, moonroof, #BY22225
36 month, $34,900 cap cost, 10,000 miles per year, $725 acquisition fee, $2,250 cap cost, reduction $18,558 residual plus tax, tag & title.

1998 BMW Z3 ROADSTER
5 spd., cass., CD changer, p.seats, dark green/beige, #EO8639

1998 BMW 328i CONVERTIBLE
Alpine white, auto., rollover pkg., CD changer, leather, p.seat, premium pkg., keyless entry, #EY88726, **$31,900**

2000 BMW Z3 ROADSTER
Titanium silver, auto., 6 cyl., leather, warranty, #LM92661 **$29,900**

2000 BMW Z3 ROADSTER
Alpine white/tan, 5spd., leather, p. seat, CD, certified, cross spoke alloys, chrome, #LF42279 **$32,900**

1999 BMW 323i
4 dr., titanium silver/gray, 6 cyl., pw, pdl, CD, p. seats, moonroof, alloys, factory certified, wood trim, #KC62129

1999 BMW 740iL
Royal red/sand, cass., CD changer, premium sound, leather, sunshades, dual p. seats, moonroof, heated seats, #DP03352 **$44,900**

2000 BMW S40i
Jet black/sand, auto., sport pack., CD changer, leather, p. seat, moonroof, #GM65199 **$45,900**

2000 BMW 328i
Titanium silver, auto., 4 dr., sport pkg., full power, CD, leather, traction control, wood trim, #FR20014 **$33,900**

2000 BMW 323ia
8k miles, auto., CD, prm pkg., full power, moonroof, fog light, fact. cert., #NC90694, **$29,900**

1998 BMW 318ti
Jet black/black, 30,050 miles, C84449, auto., p. locks, cruise control, AM/FM stereo, casette, dual air bags, ABS (4-wheel), traction control, dual p. seats, california roof, alloy wheels, FACTORY CERTIFIED, ACTIVE PACKAGE, KEYLESS ENTRY/ALARM, **$18,900**

1999 BMW 323i
4D, orient blue/sand, FP62933, auto., p. loocks, cruise control, AM/FM stereo, compact disc, dual air bags, ABS (4-wheel), traction control, leather, dual p. seats, moon roof, alloy wheels, FACTORY CERTIFIED, FOGLIGHTS, WOODTRIM **$28,900**

2001 BMW 325it Wagon
Alpine white/sand, 7,820 miles, ET62933, auto., p. loocks, cruise control, AM/FM stereo, compact disc, dual air bags, ABS (4-wheel), traction control, leather, dual p. seats, moon roof, alloy wheels, FACTORY CERTIFIED, FOGLIGHTS, **$28,900**

2000 BMW 323i
Sedan 4D, alpine white/gray, FP78467, auto., premium pkg., cruise control, AM/FM stereo, compact disc, dual air bags, ABS (4-wheel), traction control, leather, dual p. seats, moon roof, alloy wheels, **$29,900**

1999 BMW 323i Convertible
Titanium silver/gray, 28,345 miles, EA17780, rollover pkg., cruise control, CD changer, dual air bags, ABS (4-wheel), traction control, alloy wheels, FACTORY CERTIFIED, FOGLIGHS, KEYLESS ENTRY/ALARM, **$31,900**

1999 BMW 323I
4D, jetted black/black, 19,574 miles, KO59656, AC, p. steering, p. windows, p. loocks, AM/FM stereo, casette, dual air bags, ABS (4-wheel), traction control, FACTORY CERTIFIED, **$23,900**

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dish

There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Versace goes inn style

You've got all the big blousey silk shirts, the chunky gold chains and the lion logo-ed sunglasses—but you simply need more, more, *more* Versace! What to do?! Well, soon you'll be able to spend the night at the late designer's ornate Miami Beach villa! Yes, the home where Gianni Versace was shot and killed by serial killer Andrew Cunanan is about to become a $2,000-a-night boutique hotel. According to the *New York Post*, the villa, built in the 1930s, has become "a shrine for gays and fashionistas who still leave flowers on the front steps" and is an unofficial tourist attraction for the curious, who simply stand outside the gates and gawk. Versace's sister Donatella sold the property a couple of years after the murder, but the current owner is now so fed up with the constant crawl of curiosity seekers that he's given up as well! The historically-preserved 15-suite hotel will be managed by recording industry and hospitality genius Chris Blackwell.

Gianni Versace's last residence is now a boutique hotel.

His own brando queerness

The notoriously *eccentric* Marlon Brando was recently all over the news (and frankly, at his size, he's all over everything) for the shenanigans he pulled on the set of his last movie, "The Score." Reports were flying out almost daily concerning the acting legend's tantrums and problems with the movie's director, Frank Oz. Well, the *New York Post* revealed last week exactly what it was that started the on-set feuding! It seems Brando, who likes to improvise and put his own spin on the characters he plays, decided that his con-man character in the movie should be gay! Brando then proceeded to play every scene in that light. Director Oz thought the character's "gayness" was from out of left field and "caused digression" in the story. Thus began the daily arguments. Things escalated and Brando then began referring to the Oz as "Piggy" (Oz was the voice and puppeteer behind Miss Piggy on "The Muppet Show") and refusing to look, talk or listen to the director. In fact, it was reported that Brando would only take directions from co-star Robert DeNiro, who was wired to Oz, who had to remain hidden in another room! A very queer way of doing things, we must say.

Marlon Brando raised the ire of director Frank Oz for his eccentric behavior on the set of 'The Score.'

Jack offs shirt to save life

In an awfully, awfully butch move, "Will & Grace" star Sean "Jack" Hayes, ripped his shirt off last week to save the life of a man who had been wounded by a bullet in an apparent robbery attempt! Yep. According to AP news reports, Hayes was driving alone in Wilshire, a Los Angeles neighborhood, at around 9:30 p.m,, when he noticed a man lying in the street. When he pulled over to check on the guy, he realized the man was wounded and bleeding, so Hayes called 911 on his cellular phone, stripped his shirt off and pressed it against the wound to stop the bleeding (sounds like a portrait Tom of Finland forgot to paint). After paramedics and police arrived, Hayes told them what happened and then left, his publicist told reporters. The wounded man, 33-year-old Courtney Cunningham, was treated and later released from Cedar-Sinai Medical Center. Hayes has been nominated for an Emmy for best supporting actor in "Will & Grace" this year. If after this feat, Hayes doesn't win for "best support," then they don't know Jack!

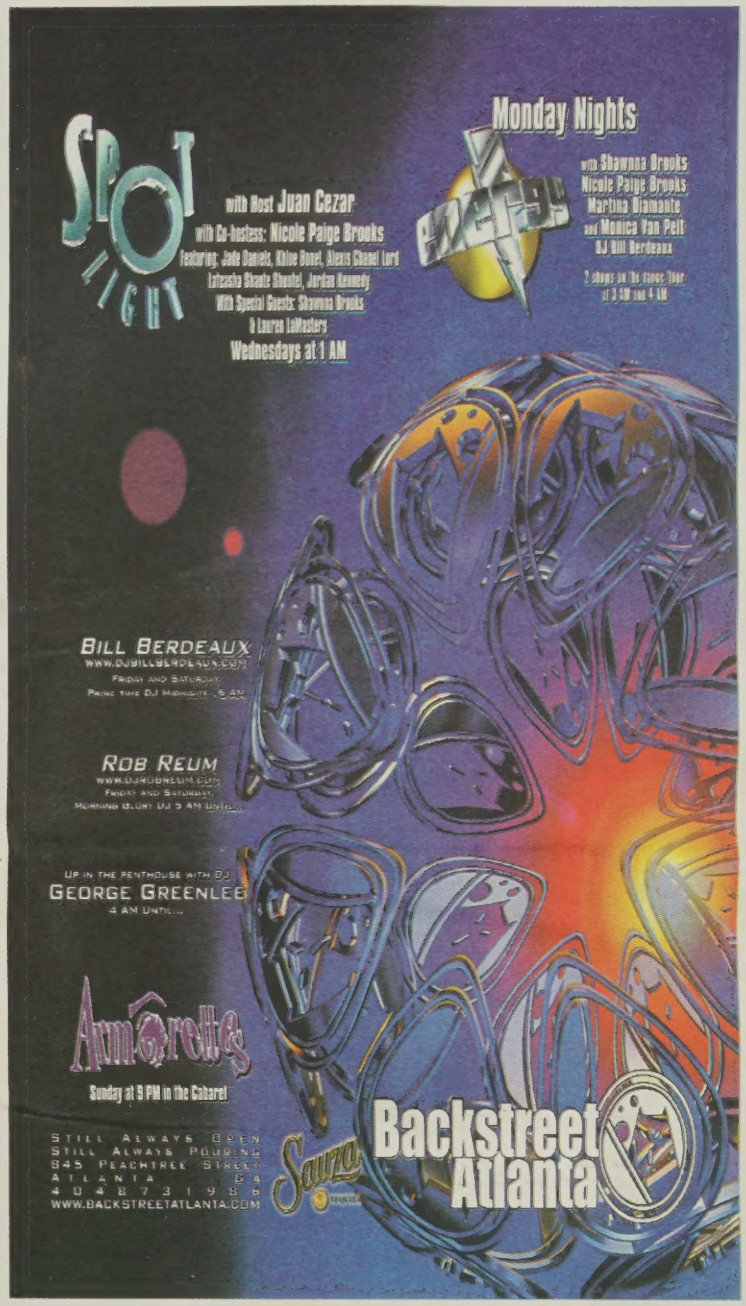
'Will & Grace' star Sean Hayes shucked his shirt to save a bleeding man in Los Angeles recently.

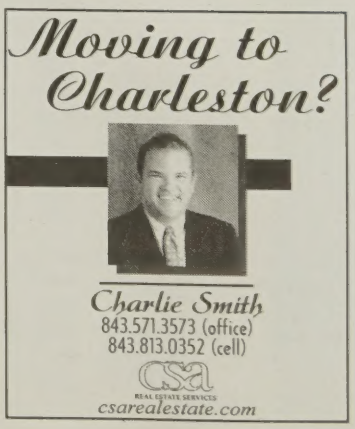
Boy George's big role

Out pop star Boy George is about to make his motion picture debut, and from early reports, it stands to be one of the biggest roles in the history of film! In the independent film "Nine Dead Gay Guys," George will play the Queen, the leader of a crime ring who reportedly will sport the largest penis ever shown on film! With "the size and width of two Red Bull cans put together," Boy George and his prosthetic co-star look like a team destined to ascend to great heights. But will we ever hear George's Culture Club song "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me" the same way again?!

—Write to Dish@sovo.com

Boy George plays a crime boss who carries an extra-big stick in the upcoming film 'Nine Dead Gay Guys.'





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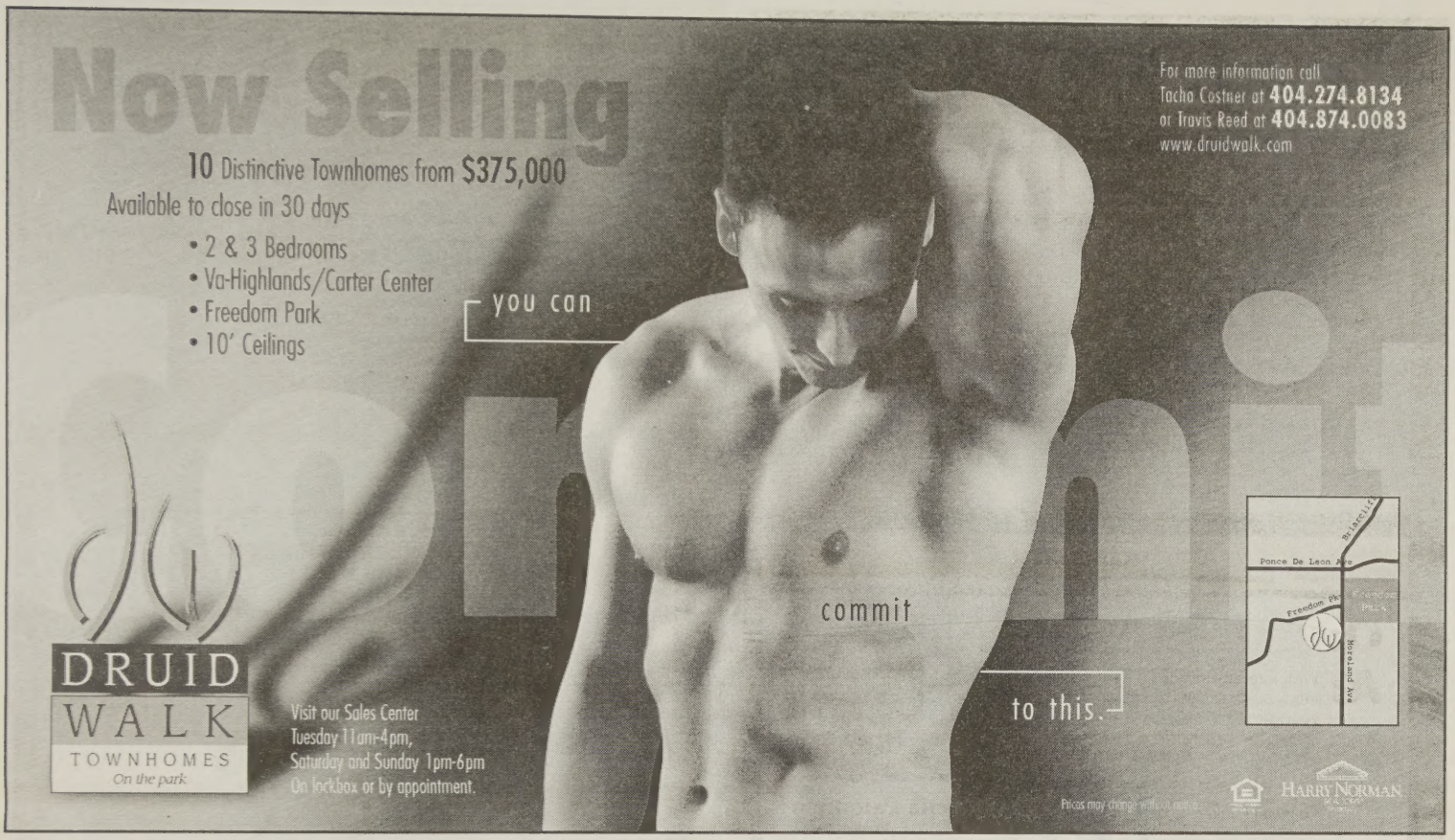

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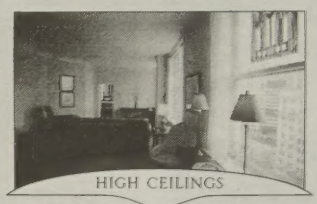
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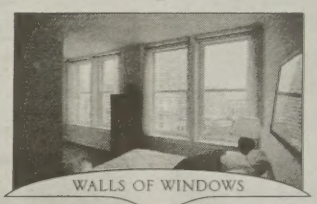
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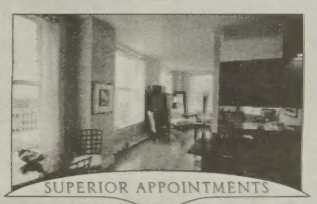
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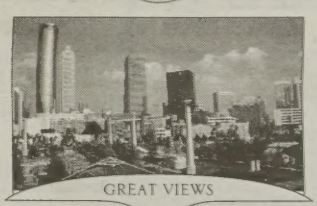
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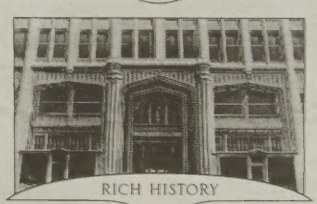
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HOMO'S BEST FRIEND

Friends come in all shapes and sizes

Domesticated, specialty-bred rats are fast becoming the pet of choice for many inner-city dwellers

by STON SEIBER

I never knew. Honest I didn't.

I had a pet rat once myself, but I'm an unusual fellow so something like that is expected of me. I had no idea that owning rats as pets and breeding exotic rats had developed into such a trend.

My rat was a pointy-faced white thing with pink eyes and a long tail. He was a big fella',about as big as child's shoe. I rescued him from an old department store in downtown Atlanta.

I called him McCrory after the department store he came from and he took up residence with me in an enormous old Delta air kennel that was once a travel kennel for a medium-sized dog.

By the time McCrory came to live with me he was well into adulthood—and not very sociable. I tried to spend some quality time with him, but he always ended up chewing on my finger, as if to say, "Don't get too close, man!"

So we maintained our friendly distances—I generally just said hello and tossed him some food—and that was the extent of our relationship. On more than one occasion, though, I pulled him out of his cage just to gage the sissy factor in a potential date. The one that was the least put off by McCrory I ended up spending seven years with.

The boyfriend and McCrory have since left my life, but the concept of rats as pets came up again recently in a conversation with a new friend.

"You wouldn't believe how popular rats have become as pets," my friend Marnie explained. "There are exotic rat breeders and people who collect unusual, classic rats."

McCrory would have never won a personality contest, so my impression of rodent social skills wasn't the best.

"They can make wonderful pets," Marnie continued. "They're very intelligent and if you get them when they're young they're easy to domesticate and they like people. They're really popular right now with urban dwellers who aren't allowed pets like a cat or don't have the time to dedicate to the care and feeding of a dog. They can be just as good a companion as either of those."

I have to admit I chuckled just a little when I was directed by Marnie to one of the many Internet sites about rats to find that these furry-faced little buggers come in a myriad of colors, shapes and sizes and boast exotic names like "Cream Hooded," "Siamese Rex" and "Blue Point Jumbo." The hairless ones—known as "Double Rex"—are particularly odd and scrotal-looking, but still kinda' cute, with eyes like glistening pink marbles.

Last but not least, rats are great for people who want to have pets but might be a little economically challenged. They range in price generally from $5 to $20 (the hairless ones are more expensive) and consume a diet comprised mostly of seeds and dried fruit.

"It's usually best," Marnie added, "if you get one to get another. They like to have friends when you're not around. Otherwise you can plan on spending a lot of time with them!"

A pet rat known as George shown here eating his favorite food—green beans! Domesticated rats are meticulously clean and can make charming companions.

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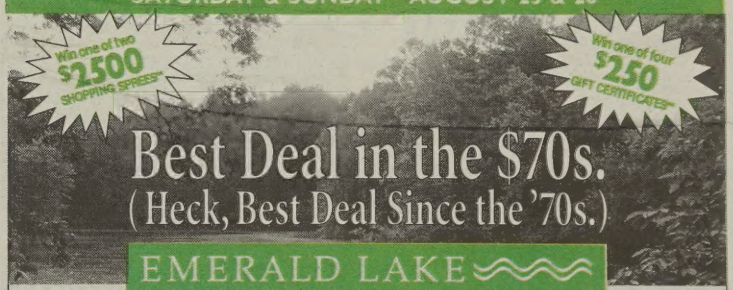

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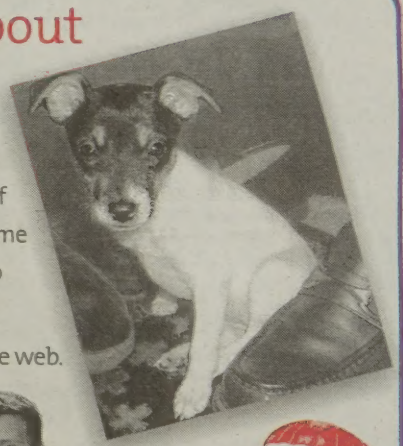

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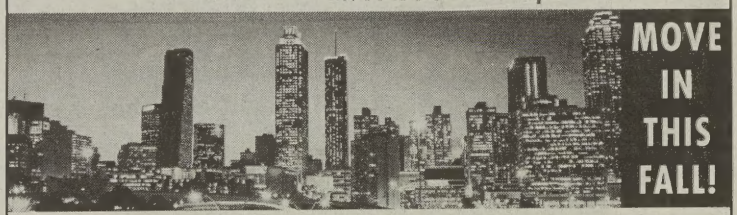

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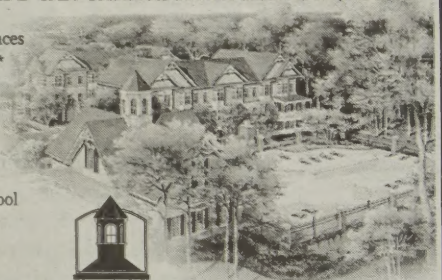

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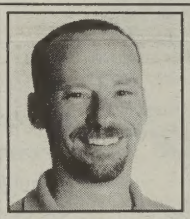

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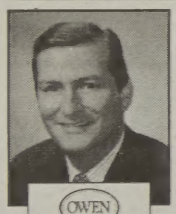

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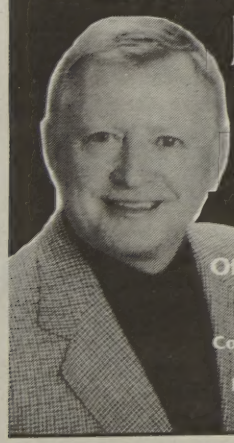

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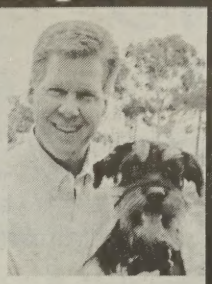

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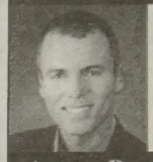

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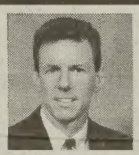

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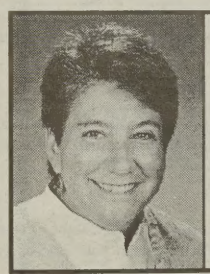

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my stars

by CHARLENE LICHTENSTEIN

Aug. 23-29

Mercury moves into Virgo and squares off with crabby Saturn and pushy Mars. Even the most carefully considered words pack a punch, so check your missives before you launch them. Ready, aim, fire. Ouch.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Rainbow Rambos yearn to man the barricades and right any wrongs but the revolution can go awry. Before you know it, you'll be packing up your paperclips and contemplating your next move. How about Maui?

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Proud Bulls are tempted to party till the cows come home, but animal instincts lead you to expensive, wasteful dalliances. Don't be reduced to picking through end of season shopworn remainders. Pace yourself for top of the line quality instead.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
The Mercury, Saturn and Mars square is a brief but meaningful tremor that will have proud Twins reviewing what they want and do not want in any type of relationship. But avoid drawing any line in the sand. Draw inclusive circles of love instead.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
The harder you work, the less likely you will get credit for your efforts. Pink Crabs feel the need for approval, but don't expect it this week. My advice is to keep up appearances. Go for the gold next week. This week, the market is in scrap metal.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Overly confident proud Leos chalk up the Mercury/Saturn/Mars square to petty jealousy. Let's say that pals are unable to recognize true genius now, or true talent. Yeah. How about true over inflated ego and arrogance? That they recognize.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins feel they have to make a move in career or family issues. But the wise move is to look at the long view and ascertain what new options can be put in place over the few weeks that help you balance all weighty projects. Plan now, act up later.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Gay Libras get tangled in the wide Web when Mercury knots up Saturn and Mars. Your bark may have an even larger bite. Plot a world takeover next week when the lines of communication are receptive. Then speak up, proud and queer.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 – NOV. 22)
Pink Scorps are so sure of themselves that they are prepared to take a leap of faith in love or financial affairs. Now is not the time. This week, leaps lead to splats. Pack the spatula and the cooking oil.

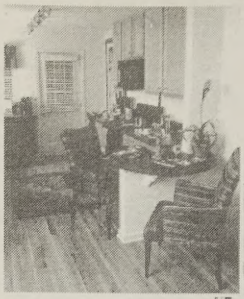
SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Proud Archers are destined to march to their own tune this week as professional and personal commitments collide and conflict. Both sides are asking too much. Instead of choosing sides, why not take a break from both? I'm in favor of avoidance!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Hardworking pink Caps feel like doormats but keep your sunny side up: Some of your brighter visions definitely have some staying power. Pack them in your pocket for future use. We can always use some extra staying power.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Aqueerians can't understand why their sex appeal fails to appeal. Blame the strain on the planets, park yourself around good pals and give your feisty urges a rest. There will be plenty of time to let it all hang out next week—and you will!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
Guppies give more attention to their career, letting partnerships suffer under the strain. You feel that professional choices must be made, but the right decision is to avoid choosing until the square has passed. Do patchwork and leave the full renovations to next week.

For entertainment purposes only. For more information on Charlene Lichtenstein, including her new book, "HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians," visit www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer.



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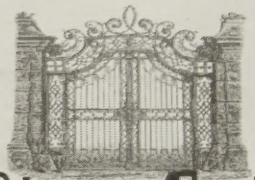

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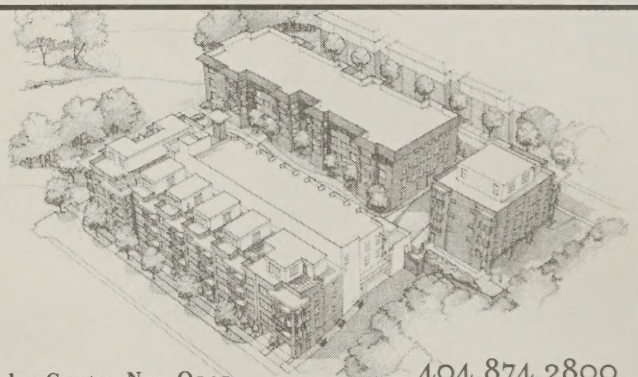

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